

Home & Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1995

Sfeir paints bleak Lebanon picture

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's Maronite Christian patriarch, in an Easter message, painted a bleak picture of the country, citing lack of sovereignty, human rights breaches and an acute economic crisis.

Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir, speaking few days after Lebanon marked the 20th anniversary of the start of Syria's devastating 1975-90 civil war, warned the situation must be rectified "before it is too late."

"Our national will is captive, human rights are not always respected, the administration is worn-out, patronage is prevalent," Patriarch Sfeir, widely seen as the last effective Christian Voice in Lebanon, said at a weekend sermon attended by Maronite President Elias Hrawi and other officials.

"Lebanese are suffering at this stage of their national life more than in the past few years," he said in the speech from his seat of Birkirkara in the Christian heartland north of Beirut.

A national reconciliation pact signed in Taif, Saudi Arabia, in 1989 ended the civil war a year later and the country has since launched a slow-paced reconstruction campaign.

Referring to grievances among Lebanon's 1.4 million once-dominant minority Christians they are being discriminated against, he said: "Rule, contrary to what is stipulated in the (Taif) national accord, is not balanced."

Many Christians who say their community emerged weakened from the 1975-90 civil war argue the Arab-brokered Taif pact which divided power equally between Christians and Muslims is being implemented in a way disfavouring them.

Traditionally opposed to

Damascus' political stranglehold over Beirut, many Christians argue Lebanon will not be truly free until Syria's 35,000 troops, acting as peacekeepers, and Israel's 1,000-strong occupation force in South Lebanon leave.

The Christians, most of whom boycotted parliamentary polls in 1992 saying they wanted elections free of Damascus tutelage, say they are not well represented in government and parliament.

Patriarch Sfeir, also a cardinal, said rivalry over public jobs on a sectarian basis has overburdened the cash-starved treasury and the economic crisis gripping the country was exhausting Lebanese.

"Debts are accumulating one month after another," he added.

Lack of trust in post-war Lebanon was preventing hundreds of thousands of Lebanese who emigrated during the war from returning "at a time when the homeland is in dire need to their energies and brains," Patriarch Sfeir said.

"All of this needs to be rectified before it is too late," he said.

"If the train of (Middle East) peace arrives and we are still in this situation and have not prepared the plans which allows us to join the march, we don't know what our fate will be."

The government of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri has launched a multi-billion dollar reconstruction campaign, hoping Lebanon would regain at least part of its role as a business and financial centre in a peaceful Middle East.

But the priorities and pace of his programme have been under fire and many Lebanese are bitter at the economic hardships they still face.

Denktash faces run-off in presidential election

NICOSIA (AFP) — Veteran Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash faces a run-off against a former ally in a presidential vote in breakaway northern Cyprus after failing to clinch a first round Saturday, official results showed.

It will be the first time Mr. Denktash, running for his third term as president, has been forced into a second round of balloting in 30 years of power.

Mr. Denktash, 71, won 40 per cent of the first round vote, according to results based on 82 per cent of the poll.

He now faces a head-on meeting next Saturday with Dervis Eroglu, leader of the National Unity Party which Mr. Denktash helped set up before the two men fell out over intercommunal talks on Cyprus.

"I regret the party political divisions marking this presidential election, while my definition the president is above parties," Mr. Denktash said late Saturday.

Mr. Eroglu, prime minister from 1985 to 1993, won 24 per cent of the first round vote behind Mr. Denktash who needed an absolute majority to avoid a run-off.

Mr. Denktash is running as an independent but is supported by the centre-right Democrat Party, one of the two ruling coalition parties.

Jordan Times

Tel: 667171

42 accused deny charge in Egyptian court trial

CAIRO (Agencies) — Forty-two suspects entered pleas of innocent Sunday to charges that they were members of a terrorist group attempting to overthrow the government.

Six of the defendants also told the judge they were tortured in prison, and the judge ordered the court doctor to investigate.

There was no report about medical checks for five other defendants who had complained of torture at a previous hearing.

The government denies it is mistreating prisoners.

The 42 are charged with membership in the Jihad group, which assassinated President Anwar Sadat, and with attacks against the government. The group has operated in recent years under the name Vanguards of Conquest.

Conviction can result in a death penalty or long prison terms.

The defendants include three militants serving prison terms for the 1981 shooting of Sadat. The prosecutor introduced evidence from handwriting experts indicating that the three wrote letters from jail to their followers on the use of weapons and explosives.

Sunday's session was mainly procedural. The judge, who cannot be identified for security reasons, heard the defendants enter their pleas, then registered the names of their attorneys.

The next hearing was scheduled for April 29.

Families and lawyers were allowed to attend. They had been banned from the first session April 12.

Some relatives complained they had not been able to see the detainees for four months.

The indictment says the defendants formed their group in 1988. Two members were accused of killing a policeman and stealing his weapons and murdering two Coptic Christians while robbing their jewellery shop in 1994.

Another is accused of stealing ammunition from an army depot. Others are charged with illegal possession of weapons, explosives and ammunition.

Extremists have waged a three-year campaign of violence to try to overthrow Egypt's socialist government and replace it with strict Islamic rule.

The Turkish republic of northern Cyprus set up in 1983 is recognised only by Ankara, but Mr. Denktash

has been acknowledged as leader of his community since intercommunal strife first erupted in post-independence Cyprus in 1963.

Saturday's poll was seen as the first real test for Mr. Denktash in three decades of power. He won 70.2 per cent of the vote in 1985 and 66.7 per cent in 1990.

Mr. Denktash had said he would not run for another five-year term but changed his mind because of what he called a deluge of appeals from his community.

A hardliner in stalled talks on setting up a U.N.-brokered federation, he campaigned on a pledge to make major progress in 1996 towards unifying the island.

The southern half of the city and most of its environs



An Israeli policeman examines the bullet-ridden car in which three Palestinians were shot dead in ambushing by an Israeli special unit in Hebron on Sunday. Three militants, belonging to an underground cell of the Ezzadin Qassam, the military wing of Hamas, had been wanted by the Israeli army (see page one). (AFP photo)

Families lose track of Hamas and Jihad members in crackdown

GAZA CITY (AFP) —

Crowds of veiled women and elderly men flock to Gaza City's central jail each day to search for relatives rounded up in a huge Palestinian police crackdown on militants.

Saturday was visiting day

but most people went simply to find out where a son, father, or cousin had been locked up after police took them from their homes in a sweep of members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and Islamic Jihad.

More than 200 people have been arrested in the past week since the two groups claimed suicide bombings in the Gaza Strip which killed seven Israelis and an American.

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The southern half of the city and most of its environs

are controlled by rival warlord General Mohammad Farah Aideed's Somali National Alliance (SNA) faction.

Humanitarian assistance and to facilitate negotiations between local warring clan leaders.

"We condemn those opposing international efforts at a time when the death toll in Somalia from clan warfare exceeds between 1,000 and 1,500 a day," Mr. Ali Mahdi said in reference to his arch-rival Aideed, who has vowed that he would never again accept any U.N. presence in Somalia.

Warfare between Mr. Ali Mahdi and Gen. Aideed's backers after the overthrow of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991 caused a massive famine and led to intervention by U.S. troops in December 1992. These troops were placed by U.N. peacekeepers, the last of whom pulled out this year.

Mr. Ali Mahdi told the press conference that his faction welcomed proposals by the U.N. Security Council to establish a small liaison office in Somalia to coordinate

humanitarian assistance and to facilitate negotiations between local warring clan leaders.

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At a press conference in the Somali capital on Wednesday, Gen. Aideed accused the United Nations in general and U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali in particular of having "created most of the rival factions in Somalia and supplied them with arms and money to finance their war activities."

"No Somalis with a sense of nationalism wants the revival of Mogadishu to the central regions," said Mr. Ali Mahdi.

Asked to comment on the current fighting in Hirshon region north of Mogadishu between the Hahr Gedir militia supporting Gen. Aideed and Mr. Ali Mahdi's own Hawla supporters, Mr. Ali Mahdi appealed to both sides to stop fighting immediately.

"Their problem is negotiable if they are fighting for control of the road that links Mogadishu to the central regions," said Mr. Ali Mahdi.

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Iraq Kurdish children profit from Turkish army presence

ZHAOK (AFP) — Turkey's incursion into northern Iraq has become a profitable enterprise for Iraqi Kurdish children who are making good money from selling food and cigarettes to the troops.

Every day after sunrise, Kerim Abdullah, a 13-year-old Kurdish boy, fetches newly-laid eggs from his henhouse and takes them to Turkish soldiers encamped across the road from his village.

If they are lucky, the boys are also allowed to look over the sophisticated weaponry in the camps.

"They are really kind. Whenever they get a new load of soft drinks and Turkish biscuits, they distribute some of them free to us," said Abdusrah Rahim, 15.

If they are lucky, the boys are also allowed to look over the sophisticated weaponry in the camps.

"They are better than Rambo. We are even allowed to touch the weapons sometimes," said one small boy.

The boys, however, are not afraid of the soldiers. "Why should we be? Our own people are no less dangerous than them," said Selim, 12, referring to the Iraqi Kurds who have waged war among themselves during the last year.

More than 50 children are running small businesses catering for three Turkish camps along the road between the Iraqi border town of

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Abul Ragheb, Bahraini officials discuss upgrading economic pact

MANAMA (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb opened, here Sunday with Bahrain government leaders in order to upgrade a Bahrain-Jordanian economic agreement signed in 1975.

The talks covered topics of common interest to both countries, primarily on industry, agriculture, culture, tourism and transport.

Mr. Abul Ragheb's talks with Bahraini Minister of Industry and Trade Habib Qasim will pave the ground for Monday's meeting of the joint Jordanian-Bahraini ministerial committee which will tackle economic and commercial topics and the upgrading of the 1975 agreement.



Ali Abul Ragheb

The minister of industry and trade is tomorrow expected to open Jordan's industrial fair in Manama.



Amman Mayor Mamoun Abbadi, discussing the application of modern technology and management in municipal affairs (Petra photo)

Arab delegates review modern methods in municipal management

AMMAN (Petra) — Various challenges and adverse political circumstances have affected the Amman municipality's performance in the past, but despite limited resources, it has been able to meet the growing needs of its expanding population, said Amman Mayor Mamoud Abbadi.

Opening a three-day symposium Sunday on the use of modern technology and management in municipal affairs, on behalf of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Dr. Abbadi outlined

Amman Municipality's services to residents and businesses.

Only through modern techniques, sound management and careful planning can municipalities cope with the requirements of the modern age, the mayor said.

Organised by Amman Municipality in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Cities Development, the seminar is expected to tackle such topics as disposal of garbage and waste, recycling used products, modern road paving, organisation of traffic



House Speaker Saad Hayel Srour Sunday receives visiting Speaker of the Yemeni Lower House Abdul Wahab Mahmoud, who is accompanied by Yemeni ambassador to Jordan Hussein Ahmad Lawzi, to discuss cooperation among Arab parliaments (Petra photo)

Senior Jordanian, Yemeni parliamentarians discuss advancing cooperation at Arab level

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Saad Hayel Srour Sunday said Jordanian-Yemeni relations are a model of brotherly Arab relations.

Mr. Srour's statement was made following a meeting he had with Deputy Speaker of the Yemeni Lower House Abdul Wahab Mahmoud. Dr. Mahmoud and Mr. Srour stressed the need for closer coordination and cooperation among Arab parliamentarians with a view to crystallising united positions at the regional and international levels.

The two officials reviewed the outcome of the Rabat meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union, which was held early this month, and means of enhancing inter-Arab parliamentary work.

They also discussed the current developments in Arab and international arenas, in addition to means of advancing bilateral relations in the parliamentary field.

The two sides agreed to exchange visits and experiences.

In a statement to Jordan

Television after the meeting, Dr. Mahmoud said he discussed with Mr. Srour means of cooperation and coordination between both houses, adding that a Jordanian parliamentary delegation will visit Yemen directly after the Eid holiday next month.

He voiced hope that both sides can come up with a mechanism for joint work between Jordanian and Yemeni parliament chambers.

The meeting was attended by the Yemeni Ambassador to Jordan Hassan Ahmad Lawzi.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Japanese officials hold talks at WAJ

AMMAN (Petra) — A Japanese delegation arrived in Amman to hold talks with officials at the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) on a \$7.2 million Japanese grant offered to the Kingdom in implementation of an agreement signed by the two governments earlier. The delegation will prepare tender documents and the technical specifications of equipment which will be imported through the grant to improve the performance of WAJ's maintenance workshops.

Dutch team here to study airports expansion

AMMAN (Petra) — A Dutch technical team Sunday visited Jordan's civil airports as part of a plan to conduct a study on means of expanding and maintaining these air transport facilities. The team also met with Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Ahmad Jweib and other CAA officials for talks on the study.

Jordan, Iraq study proposed pipeline

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Iraq are studying a proposal to build a \$1.4 billion pipeline to pump Iraqi crude to the Zarqa refinery and replace the present trucking system, which is hazardous and costly.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazeh said Sunday.

The 950-kilometre pipeline, which will run from Haditha in northwest Iraq to the Jordan Petroleum Company in Zarqa, will have an installed capacity to pump 250,000 barrels per day (b/d) of Iraqi crude, but initial pumping will be limited to 100,000 b/d, said Mr. Darwazeh.

Mr. Darwazeh, who discussed the idea with his Iraqi counterpart while on a visit to Baghdad last week, said the idea was at its "very preliminary stages" and needed closer study.

According to a government study made available to the Jordan Times, rough estimates put the cost of 122-centimetre diameter pipeline at \$1.4 billion, with \$1 billion to be spent in Jordanian territory and the rest in Iraq.

About \$1.1 billion is estimated to be spent in local currency.

The same study also indicated that work on the pipeline should begin in 1996 and

be complete by 1998, so that the expected rise in local demand for crude could be met in full.

The Zarqa refinery has an installed processing capacity of 100,000 b/d. The proposed refinery to be built at Aqaba will have a similar capacity. The Aqaba project is estimated to cost \$500 million, and the implementation time is projected between 1996 and 2000.

Mr. Darwazeh categorically denied reports that Jordan intended to export Iraqi oil through its territory. "We have no plans for (Iraqi oil) exports," he said. "If in the future there are needs for exports then a new pipeline will be built after the sanctions are lifted."

That was a reference to the crippling international trade embargo imposed against Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"At this stage, we are planning to (pump oil from) Haditha to Zarqa, and

whenever we have the plans finalised for the second refinery we will have the other (Zarqa-to-Aqaba) part of the pipeline," he said.

Jordan also wanted to replace the present form of transport of Iraqi oil to Jordan in tanker trucks — "which is very tedious and very costly" — the minister said.

Under the latest contract, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources pays JD 6.5 for a tonne of Iraqi crude to be trucked overland to Zarqa, he said. The owner of the truck gets JD 6.05 per tonne and the rest goes to the contracting company as insurance and management fees.

About 2,000 trucks are involved in the cross-border movement, with at least 200 trucks coming in every day.

Asked how the government viewed the prospect of the truckers losing the contracts as and when the pipeline is built, the minister said:

"We hope that by the time we build the pipeline, there will be transportation needs from Aqaba to Iraq and from Aqaba to other parts of the country... that the economy will improve and the truckers will change their work from oil to other goods."

Mr. Darwazeh said that during his recent visit to Baghdad, he also renewed the annual oil supply agreement between Iraq and Jordan.

The Iraqi oil supply to Jordan is exempted from the international sanctions against Baghdad since no cash is changing hands.

According to the minister, the oil is calculated at international market prices — reviewed on a monthly basis — less by "about \$1 per barrel" since we transport the oil."

Part of the oil comes in settlement of pre-Gulf crisis Iraqi debts to Jordan, and Amman settles the other part with food and medicine exports to Iraq.

Tourism to Petra doubles as studies continue into limiting numbers of visitors to site

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Just shy of the impending tourist season, the Petra Archaeological Office reported Sunday that the number of tourists to Petra has so far this year doubled over last year's figures. Since January, 68,922 tourists have entered the ancient Nabataean city as compared to 33,450 by this time last year.

The archaeological office also reported that revenues from entrance fees at the site stood at JD 1,190,184 for the first three months of this year compared to last year's figure of JD 163,687. However, director of the office Suleiman Farajat said that when reviewing the totals it is important to bear in mind that the entrance fee to Petra was raised late last year from JD 5 to JD 20.

The increase in tourism is often attributed to Jordan's

peace treaty with neighbouring Israel, however, Mr. Farajat said that department does not record the nationalities of Petra's guests and therefore has no idea of number of Israelis entering the site.

"Our guests are only categorised as 'foreigners' or 'Jordanians,'" he said, pointing out that in January 1995, 12,687 foreign visitors entered Petra, again nearly doubling the number of foreign visitors in January 1994 which numbered 6,850.

The Archaeological Department's statistics show that the number of Jordanians visiting the city has also increased — 3,462 thus far this year compared to 2,100 in 1994.

The number of tourists now entering Petra on a daily basis reaches 1,500, Mr. Farajat told the Jordan Times, adding that the figure of 300 tourists a day as reported by Al Dustour Arabic daily was incorrect.

Consideration is being given to a daily limit to the

number of tourists allowed to enter Petra. A 300-page Petra Management Plan proposed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) cited "too high concentration of visitors" as one of the "major issues identified" as a "principal threat to the site's integrity."

Mr. Farajat told the Jordan Times that "a limit of 1,500 visitors is being considered by the ministry, but to date, has not been implemented here in Petra."

Already, the ministry has curtailed the use of horses in the siq leading to Petra, effective March this year. The move came following a growing number of complaints of the stench and unsanitary conditions caused by horse manure and the danger caused by horses rearing through the siq at break-neck speed. The horses also limited Petra's visitor capacity.

Consideration is being given to a daily limit to the

capacity of the area."

The UNESCO Management Plan proposed a daily limit of 2,000-2,500 visitors, considering that horses were not used and that traffic through Petra was one way — another option currently under study at the ministry.

A third measure to preserve the Petra area was the creation three weeks ago of the Petra Regional Authority, also a recommendation of the UNESCO plan.

The authority is a unified umbrella of different government departments and non-governmental organisations (NGO) to coordinate a development and management plan for the Petra and Wadi Musa areas. It includes the ministers of municipal affairs and tourism, the director of the Antiquities Department, the minister of planning, and three private sector establishments, among others.

U.S. embassy's Earth Week activities to draw on local environmental movement

AMMAN (J.T.) — As Jordan has an active environmental movement, the U.S. embassy will capitalise on this fact by offering a special programme in celebration of Earth Day.

The planned event is called Earth Week and will run from Monday to Thursday this week (April 17 to April 20), at the American Cultural Centre in Abdoun.

Earth Day was first celebrated in the U.S. 25 years ago when almost 20 million adults and children marched, attended special classes or planted trees. On that day the environmental movement was born and has become a political force that influenced the passing of laws on clean air and water among many other anti-pollution measures in the U.S.

American embassies and consulates around the world will use the coming few days to publicise U.S. and host country environmental activities and concerns.

According to a United States Information Service (USIS) statement, the purpose of Earth Week is to

draw together governmental, non-governmental and business organisations concerned with the environment and to present a comprehensive view of the efforts being undertaken within the King dom.

While the American Centre is coordinating the event, it should be seen as a reflection of the national and international concerns and how they are being developed here, the statement said.

On each day of Earth Week, a broad general subject will be dealt with: April 17 (today) will be dedicated to water issues in the Kingdom and will begin with a keynote address by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) President Anis Muasher.

Throughout the day there will be presentations by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Water Authority of Jordan.

The second day will boast a theme of bio-diversity and will include presentations on wildlife reserves, forests, effects of

global warming, air pollution and heavy metal pollutants.

The presenters of these topics are members of the RSCN, the University of Jordan, the Department of Environment and also private companies.

On Wednesday, the third day of Earth Week, waste problems and recycling will be focused on. Subjects included within the presentations are waste collection and disposal, hazardous waste, recycling of paper and plastics and industrial recycling.

On the fourth and final day more than 20 public and private schools and oon-governmental organisations will participate in festivities.

The RSCN asked school children to display projects undertaken during the last year that aimed at protecting the environment.

Running concurrently with the presentations 14 Jordanian companies that deal in environmental equipment will exhibit their products for the full duration of Earth Week.

Earth Week is open to the public.

'Rape, murder trial of Zarqa man starts today'

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The trial of a 47-year-old Zarqa man who confessed to the rape and murder of a Zarqa camp child in February will start today, according to court sources.

Sheikh Mohammad Shesh, a service driver, will stand before a three-judge panel on charges of strangling Samar Ghossein, a fifth grade student at the United Nation's Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) school in Zarqa camp, after a sexual assault.

The suspect, who was arrested in March, confessed to police that he lured the child to a wooden area in Yajouz then raped her.

The child started bleeding and the suspect told police he had no choice but to kill her by strangulation to conceal his crime, police reported.

The accused said that he took Samar's body and dumped it in a valley near

Abu Alia area in Tabarbour. The body was discovered two days later by a shepherd.

If convicted, Mr. Shesh, who is married to two women, and has a son, 7, and a daughter, 8, could face the death penalty.

Last year, a 57-year-old man, also from Zarqa, was executed in July after being found guilty of the rape and brutal murder of an eight-year-old Zarqa boy.

Meanwhile, Civil Defence Department (CDD) frogmen Sunday retrieved the body of an 18-year-old shepherd who drowned in a reservoir in Mafrag.

According to CDD and police reports, one of the victim's friends told police that the victim, Husni Jamil Salem, went to swim and take a bath in a reservoir in Al Khaldieh area. A few minutes later, the victim vanished, the reports said.

CDD frogmen looked for Mr. Salem all day Saturday. They found his body early Monday morning, the reports said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

★ Film entitled "L'Accompagnatrice" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

EARTH WEEK

★ Earth Week activities (consisting of an exhibition of catalogues by major environment-oriented companies, student and school presentations, business seminars for professionals, electronic dialogues between experts in the U.S. and their Jordanian counterparts, public awareness demonstrations and more) at the American Center.

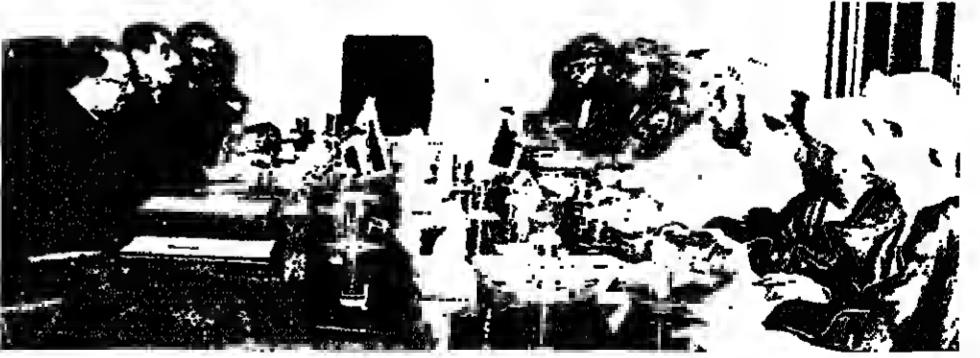
LECTURE & DIALOGUE

★ Lecture (in German) entitled: "Reise: Stadt und Sage — Hannover — Münster" at Goethe-Institut at 6:00 p.m.

★ Dialogue on literature-related subjects with Mohammad Ali Taha at Darat Al Funun at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by artist Sa'id Haddadin at Orfali Art Gallery.
★ Exhibition of paintings by Samer Osama at the French Cultural Centre.
★ Exhibition of paintings by 13 leading Jordanian artists at the Italian Language Centre (Tel. 699348).
★ Exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Mahrul Din Adhim at Balqa Art Gallery, Fuheis.



Acting Director General of the Public Security Department Sharif Fawaz Zaben and Omani Interior Ministry Under-secretary Qahtan Ben Yarob Al Bousaedi and his accompanying delegation (Petra photo)

No 'disaster' but security remains tight in Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — Tokyo lived through a doomsday cult leader's prophecy of a disaster but remained tense and under heavy security Sunday, with scores of restaurants and stores shut and thousands of police guarding potential trouble spots.

"We have no plans to loosen security," a spokesman for the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department said. "The number of officers being deployed will be roughly the same as yesterday."

On Saturday, helicopters patrolled the skies over Tokyo and 20,000 police were mobilised on the ground to watch over public transport, department stores, stadiums, airports and theatres in this city of 12 million people.

"We can't completely ignore the rumours," the police spokesman said. "Extra precaution is needed to ensure public safety."

Shoko Asahara, the leader of Aum Shinri Kyo (Supreme Truth Sect), prophesied that Saturday would bring a disas-

ter to Tokyo worse than the earthquake in Kobe in January.

Asahara, who predicts the world will end in 1997, foresees a catastrophe, possibly an earthquake, which would make the Kobe earthquake seem as minor as a fly landing on one's cheek."

More than 5,500 people died in the Kobe quake, which the sect claims its guru had predicted.

Aum is under investigation over suspected links to the March 20 nerve gas attack on Tokyo subways which killed 12 people and injured more than 5,000.

As was the case Saturday, guards stood on duty at major subway stations while loudspeakers warned passengers not to touch any suspicious packages left on trains or at stations. Spot checks continued along main highways.

"I stayed up late last night watching television for possible news of incidents," said office worker Atsuko Hirano.

Police said they had arrested more than 100 sect members on various charges,

Russia seeks Tajikistan breakthrough

MOSCOW (AFP) — A Russian delegation pursued peace efforts in Tajikistan Sunday following a week of violent clashes on the Tajik-Afghan border between Russian-led troops and Islamic rebels as fighting died down late Saturday, media reports said.

Russian media said front lines inside the autonomous region of Gorno-Badakhshan in eastern Pamir district were quiet following weekend

fighting claimed 200 Tajik rebel lives and a further 41 among troops from the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Meanwhile the Russian delegation from the Federation Council, or upper chamber, continued with its peace mission having arrived late Friday in the Tajik capital Dushanbe from where its members were to go on to Khorog, Pamir district's main town, ITAR-TASS said.

Following talks with Rus-

sian President Boris Yeltsin, CIS border troop commander Andrei Nikolayev had appealed to the rebels Friday to engage in an "immediate" ceasefire.

Mr. Yeltsin himself proposed a meeting of the foreign ministers of Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan for Thursday in Moscow, Interfax reported, to take "collective measures" within the CIS aimed at resolving the crisis.

The rule of law has been restored on the high seas," EU Fisheries Commissioner Emma Bonino told journalists after the deal was announced.

Ms. Bonino said the agreement, hammered out during intensive Easter weekend negotiations, was good for all — Canada and the Union, fishing and fishermen.

"I hope it is the beginning of a new era of commitment to fishing policy," a smiling Bonino added. She said the accord restored "historic, legitimate fishing rights" and set up a programme both of on-board and satellite monitoring of catches.

Ms. Bonino, seated along-

side Canada's Ambassador Jacques Roy, said Ottawa had agreed to repay a bail bond to the owners of the Spanish trawler Estai, the seizure of which on March 9 sparked the dispute, and repeat laws restricting fishing in the area.

The deal gives the EU all of whose quota is accounted for by Spain and Portugal, 5,013 more tonnes of Greenland halibut (turbot) in the waters off Newfoundland for the rest of 1995.

Previously, Canada said Spain had already fished its 10,000-tonne share or a North West Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO) quota of 27,000 tonnes.

Madrid's Ambassador to Brussels Javier Elorza, whose country originally demanded half the NAFO quota — 13,500 tonnes — for the EU, said the deal was the best Spain could get.

"We want to turn the page and cooperate with Canada

and have a good conservation of the stock," he told Reuters Television.

Portugal was also unhappy about the accord which will be formally endorsed by EU capitals in an exchange of messages.

The checkpost at Vavuniya marks an unofficial border between government-held territory and LTTE-held areas in the north.

The free transportation of fuel to the LTTE-held north was a key concession granted to the rebels by the government Thursday to help end a stalemate in peace talks, officials said.

This was the first time in five years that fuel was being freely taken to the north, large parts of which are under LTTE control, and the theatre of some of the worst fighting in recent years between security forces and the LTTE.

Canada and the EU also laid out an outline deal for catches in 1996 under which Canada gains the exclusive right to 7,000 tonnes of Greenland halibut within its own 200-mile limit and the EU just over 55 per cent of the rest.

The complex formula in effect gives the two 41 per cent each of the total catch, allowing both to say they have parity.

McNamara's belated admissions stir anger in Vietnam veterans

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara's belated admission that U.S. persistence in Vietnam was "terribly wrong" has opened old wounds among the American veterans who battled in the jungles, rice paddies and tall grass.

"A lot of people were wrong about Vietnam. But he knew the truth and concealed it," said retired Col. Harry Summers, editor of Vietnam magazine and former battalion operations officer.

"He betrayed the men and women serving under him," Col. Summers said. "He betrayed the American people."

Mr. McNamara, who served under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, was the architect of America's buildup in Vietnam from a small force to a peak of half a million. To many, the 11-year conflict was "McNamara's war."

But in his new book *In Retrospect: The Tragedy And Lessons Of Vietnam*, and in a tearful prime time TV appearance last week, Mr. McNamara said the policy he helped formulate was "terribly wrong."

Mr. McNamara said he concluded the war was unwinnable in the mid-'60s, yet he did not speak out and continued to dispatch troops into combat, in part because he feared that the appearance of weakness by the United States could have emboldened the Soviet Union.

The vast majority of the 58,196 Americans killed died after 1965.

For many who lost friends,

lost limbs, lost their eyesight or lost their innocence, Mr. McNamara's mea culpa rings hollow and late.

"You're damn right I'm angry," said John Sales, 54, a former Marine who was blinded in 1967 and founded the Blinded American Veterans Foundation.

"It's a slap in the face to everyone who has worn the uniform. It was McNamara and his ilk that had us fight the war the wrong way. He's a disgrace," Mr. Sales said.

"Most of us are glad he wrote the book. (But) what it shows is a failure of courage on his part," said Jan Scroggs, a former infantryman and president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

"A lot of my friends were killed there. A lot of them were wounded, and many of them are still in wheelchairs. If it was really unnecessary, and if we could and should have gotten out of there," Mr. Scroggs said, pausing to find the right words, "it's just kind of tough finding out about now."

It rankles some that Mr. McNamara stands to profit from royalties on the book, which is out just weeks from the 20th anniversary of the fall of Saigon to the Communists. Some feel the money should be used for scholarships for children of dead GIs, or to fund programmes to help veterans deal with the war's physical and emotional scars.

Mr. McNamara offered no direct reply to critics who said he had a moral obligation to state his misgivings after he left office in 1968.

"This book is not a book of redemption," he said.

"Much to our relief, nothing really happened in the end. Now I think I can go out and meet my friends and go shopping."

Despite signs that life in Tokyo was returning to normal, two major shopping centres and scores of stores and restaurants kept their doors closed Sunday.

About 550 followers of the sect fled Tokyo Saturday, judging the capital was "dangerous", a police official said.

The sect, accusing some Japanese media of reporting it could spread nerve gas in Tokyo, said it would not do anything to "threaten peace and order."

In more than three weeks of massive raids on the sect's sprawling complex at the foot of Mt Fuji, 100 kilometres west of Tokyo, police have confiscated hundreds of tonnes of chemicals, including all the ingredients of the nerve gas sarin.

The master's condition is quite serious. He has a malfunction of the heart and hepatocarcinosis. They could be fatal illnesses," Fumihiro Juku, the spokesman, was quoted as telling reporters Friday.

Police said they had arrested more than 100 sect members on various charges,

including abduction, illegal confinement and traffic offences.

But they have not openly linked the group to the March 20 sarin attack in Tokyo. The sect has denied any connection with the subway attack or the March 30 shooting of the national police chief.

The death toll from last month's gas attack in Tokyo's subway system rose to 12 with the death of 21-year-old company employee in hospital Sunday, police said.

Megumi Ito, a resident of Saitama Prefecture, near here, was hospitalised after inhaling gas on March 20.

Asahara may be suffering from a terminal illness, Japanese dailies said Saturday, quoting the sect's top spokesman.

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Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1995

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Playing fair at U.N.

THE U.N. Security Council made an unsuccessful bid last week to allay the anxieties and fears of the non-nuclear countries when it adopted a half-backed resolution on the eve of the New York meeting to discuss the extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). One article in the resolution spoke of offering "technical, medical, scientific or humanitarian assistance" to countries which stay away from developing or possessing nuclear weapons even if they were threatened by them. It is not surprising that the greater number of the nuclear have-nots immediately registered their disappointment with the council's action because what they had been waiting for and expecting was something much more coherent and effective. Non-nuclear states which renounce the right to possess weapons available to the big and mighty nations deserve a more meaningful assistance should they be threatened by or become the targets of nuclear attacks. The least that is needed in this context is an ironclad assurance that the attacking or threatening country would be met with a resolute counterattack or threat from the five permanent members of the council.

This is not to mention that as things stand now with the council, in terms of its composition and rules of procedure, there can be no fail-safe guarantee that the principle five nuclear powers would or could indeed exercise this prerogative should it be agreed upon as a quid pro quo for accepting the indefinite extension of the treaty. The dismay of the weaker countries, as represented mainly by the Non-Aligned Movement nations, over the preparatory work being done in anticipation of this week's meeting in New York, was made loud and clear when they made it well-known in advance that they are not prepared to give the nuclear powers a blank check before their reasonable demands are met.

Even the pledge by the major nuclear powers to negotiate in "good faith," for nuclear disarmament does not go far enough to satisfy the legitimate concerns of the have-nots. The language used in the resolution suggests that the permanent members of the council have not been negotiating in good faith all along. This is one factor. Another is connected to the kind of assurances that the nuclear countries will give on their intentions for the future. Then there is the question of making the pious commitment to nuclear disarmament a sine qua non for the desired extension by making the renewal of the treaty contingent on the implementation of the promise to end nuclear armament within an agreed period. Short of doing what is necessary, there is every reason to suspect the real intentions of the big powers in attempting to extend the treaty.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

REGARDLESS OF the different views on the U.N. Security Council's decision that allowed Iraq to sell limited amounts of oil to buy medicine and food for its people, the step marks the beginning of the end of the unjust sanctions that have been imposed on the Iraqi people since August 1990, says Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i's daily Sunday. As the world witnesses intensified moves on the part of Iraq, some Arab states and other nations to end the embargo, one can only admire the heroic steadfastness of the Iraqi people, who have been subjected to hardship and deprivation for so long, said the writer. Countries hostile to Iraq and the Arab people in general have been allocating millions of dollars to bring about the downfall of the Iraqi regime, which, said the writer, can only be changed from within; and so all enemy plans were futile all these years. All those Arabs who conspired with the enemy against their Iraqi brethren and Arab Nation to change the regime in Baghdad have failed in their bid, while the Kurds in the north, who chose to side with the enemy, have ended up serving the interests of the Turkish government and acting against their own kinsmen, said the writer.

AL DUSTOUR columnist Ali Safadi paid tribute to France and the French leaders for their consistent and firm policy with regard to the status of Jerusalem. Despite their involvement in the presidential campaigns and despite Jewish pressure, French leaders have proved to be sincere in their support for Arab rights and have not budged from their declared position and their non-recognition of Israel's illegal annexation of Arab Jerusalem, said the writer. Stressing the importance of such stand from a major world power concerning Arab rights, the writer said the French support for Arab and Palestinian rights come at a time when the Middle East peace process is passing through a crucial stage.

Human Rights File

By Waleed Sa'di

All Jordanians are equal

THE CLASH between Circassian and Salti students at the University of Jordan last week is a grim reminder that the Jordanian house may not be in order to the extent that we all wish it to be. The latest outburst of violence between Jordanians on ethnic or origin basis was not an isolated incident. Similar events occurred at several university campuses and even during football matches. All these internal conflicts have been taking place against the backdrop of increasing de facto distinctions being made between Jordanians.

What exacerbates the local scene even further is the rise of tribalism and family associations. We are used to tribal loyalties and solidarities. But this trend has taken a turn for the worst when families large and small began to form their own associations and establish home headquarters for them as if they are some sort of additional features of the Jordanian house.

These trends lead me to the conclusion that we need a domestic peace process as much as we need an external or regional peace process. There is no sense in promoting peace on the outside if peace at home is allowed to erode to the extent that Jordanians become factionalised along ethnic or racial or religious or origin basis.

This assessment further leads me to the conclusion that perhaps we have not been doing our homework at the local level to the extent that is commensurate with the challenges of the new era facing the area. House tending is therefore urgently called for to promote a contemporary sense of citizenship by combating and preventing discrimination between Jordanian along racial, religious, ethnic or origin lines. Otherwise we all are going to inherit a situation that could be explosive and destabilising. I certainly do not have all the answers but I do know that we are all sowing the seeds for future domestic conflicts unless something is done to rectify current shortcomings. There are many reasons to suspect that this phenomenon is worrying to an increasing number of Jordanians across the board. Many so-called "saloon" talks are being devoted to this sensitive subject. The quiet discussions need to come up to the surface by all people who are genuinely concerned about the Kingdom and its future course. People who wish to stay silent are doing a great disservice to the country.

The beauty of this country lies in the fact that it is the flag bearer of the great Arab Revolt. This legacy in itself would impose on the Kingdom certain guidelines that are well enshrined in Arab nationalism as espoused by the revolution led by the late Sharif Hussein. What better proof of this than the fact that the army of Jordan is still called the Arab Army. There can be no differential treatment between one Jordanian and another under the crystal clear message of the founders of this country.

We have become parties to several international treaties on human rights, which would make any discrimination among Jordanians on whatever basis unlawful. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to cite but one example, is clear on the illegality of according differential treatment to citizens whether in fact or in law. The relevant human rights bodies created by the international human rights conventions often call for affirmative action to rectify any existing or lingering discrimination between nationals of any given country. In the U.S., where the African-Americans were especially targeted for discrimination in the past decades, new laws have been enacted not only to end this discrimination but also to call for increasing effort so that blacks are proportionally represented in all walks of life in due course.

Closer to home, the people of this country may bear the main responsibility towards ending any current negative distinctions between Jordanians. This fact, however, would not excuse the state from taking effective action towards this objective. To begin with, there is an urgent need for a political will on the part of all the branches of government to stop the negative trends that seem to be mushrooming right and left. The articulation of a clear policy statement on this score is urgently called for. Even more pressing is state practices that would add credence to this aspired state policy. Discriminatory practices will not end unless and until there is a clear signal from the government that distinctions between citizens would not be tolerated in word and deed. Jordan can then offer a fine example for all the other Arab countries on contemporary nationality by sticking to the message of the Arab Revolution in spite of all the challenges and negative experiences.



Seeds of democracy in S. Arabia

By David Gardner

THE MAN who spoke first in the debate was an Egyptian Marxist. It was midnight in a wedding hall on the outskirts of Riyadh, and our host was a Saudi prince who had invited 100 intellectuals — a quarter of them from other Arab countries — to put their views on the politics, religion and culture of Saudi Arabia and the region.

Such open debate was "rarer than rain" in a society ruled on feudal lines by an absolute monarchy, a Palestinian academic observed, ignoring the freak showers that had just brought the desert into bloom. The prince's unique, if informal, *majlis* was a sign that something is stirring in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

"There is now a lot of debate, inside and outside the monarchy," says another member of the royal family. "But what is being discussed is the speed of reform; what to change, how to do it, how to package it and end it." The House of Saud, which forged the modern Saudi Arabia in 1932 after a series of conquests, has overcome many challenges to its hegemony. It has managed the sudden arrival of great wealth from its ownership of a quarter of the world's oil reserves, followed by a downward spiral in oil prices; the importing of foreign labour equivalent to a third of the population; the 1979 seizure of the great mosque at Mecca by Islamist zealots, and the annual influx of two million Muslim pilgrims, including organised partisans of Iran's Islamic revolution; and the 1991 Gulf war, with the socially and politically discomfiting presence of some 800,000 foreign troops on Saudi soil.

"If you have looked at the emergencies and dislocation this country has been through since the 1950s — and you didn't know the outcome — you would surely have concluded that (the Saudi state) had not survived," smiles one middle-ranking member of the royal family. "But I agree that the challenge is not over, in some respects, it is just begin-

ning."

For years, the Al Saud have monopolised power and, in return, provided a subsidised livelihood for the masses and an affluent lifestyle for the elite. Now, however, the Al Saud grip on power is taut with unresolved tensions. Saudis are better educated and increasingly demanding, at a time when the government's reflex response to throwing money at the least twitch of discontent is finally being constrained by the effects of a decade of fiscal deficits.

Saudi oil prices have led to a shortage of cash. Last year and this, the government decreed severe budget cuts to reduce the deficit from around nine per cent of gross domestic product in 1994 to about four per cent by the end of 1995. It has also delayed for rescheduled payments to foreign and Saudi contractors, and sharply raised hitherto minimal local fees for power, petrol, water, telephones and domestic flights. "We were living in a fat environment," says Abdul Rahman Al Zamil, deputy trade minister.

But there is little room for manoeuvre. Foreign assets have been run down to \$65 billion (\$40.6 billion) — about half pre-Gulf war levels or a third of holdings a decade ago — and these are illiquid. The kingdom spent up to \$60bn underwriting the Gulf war and is committed to \$80bn in capital outlays, two-thirds of it on weapons, worsening a 10-year-old trend of large current account deficits.

Government officials rightly point to achievements in developing infrastructure and diversifying away from crude oil production to petrochemicals, plastics and other industries. Mr. Al Zamil says \$16bn in spending cuts last year were "replaced" by an increase in private-sector investment of \$15bn, keeping growth marginally positive. But domestic growth does not supply the government with revenue, almost all of which comes from oil.

Part of the Saudi social contract is that there is no income tax, with corporate tax only on foreign companies, most of which have been set up under tax-holiday schemes. King Fahd in January told his subjects this year's utility price rises were only temporary, but that depends on the oil market. The extra revenue raised by this year's budget would evaporate with little more than a \$1 drop in the price of crude.

Dissent in the kingdom is diffuse and hard to quantify, and is as likely to focus on corruption and the conspicuous consumption of some members of the royal family as on the overall policy of financial austerity.

The Saudi regime is to some extent a victim of its successes. In the last 25 years, half a million Saudis educated abroad have been exposed to outside influences, and the government has imposed education for a generation of women, who nevertheless remain invisible under the austere Islamic social code, segregated in public and at work. Civil service pay structures have not been changed for 14 years, making many young Saudis dependent on extended families to get by.

"This is a society in ferment," a Western diplomat says.

Although tough decisions lie ahead — such as whether to introduce wider taxation and a mooted mini-budget with a further four per cent spending cut on top of 19 per cent in 1994 and six per cent this year — there is no effective mechanism for consultation. Two years ago King Fahd created a Majlis Al Shura (consultative council) to fill this vacuum. But although its 60 members are highly educated, they are nominated by the king, who may ignore them.

Policy-making can be contentious, with public opinion tested only after a new policy has been announced. "You get the input to policy-making at the point of output," says one academic, referring to the frequent withdrawal of edicts once they are found to antagonise particular interest groups. Four years ago, a decree levying income tax on foreigners was revoked within 48 hours when it became clear that hospitals and universities dependent on them would grind to a halt.

Opinions differ on the

"We are trying to provide the objective situation for gradual change," says one liberal prince, who acknowledges that "one of the obstacles to change is that we are co-opting the fundamentalists. The Motawa you see in the streets is part of that." Elections, and the integration of women into public life, "will eventually happen," he believes. King Fahd, he says, "takes time to make up his mind."

The Financial Times

Arafat, Islamists pull back from brink

By Robert Mahoney
Reuters

GAZA — On the surface Gaza looks as though it is becoming another Lebanon.

Basic ingredients for civil war are already in place — factional fighting, Islamic fundamentalism, an abundance of arms, poverty and the continued presence of Israeli troops.

Tension between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the militant Muslim group Hamas and Islamic Jihad is the highest since Yasser Arafat took charge of the self-rule Palestinian authority last July.

But Mr. Arafat and the Islamists are now trying to pull back from the abyss, believing that open warfare would serve only Israel.

In interviews with Reuters, Islamic activists and PLO officials expressed anger and fear at the deteriorating political and security situation in the Gaza Strip. But most wanted to leave the door open for dialogue.

"I think in the future there must be a real, serious dialogue between Hamas and the authority," said Imad Falouji, an activist in Hamas and a founding member of its military wing Qassam.

He was speaking after what Islamists agreed was the heaviest crackdown Mr. Arafat had ever staged against them. More than 200 have been arrested since Islamic Jihad and Hamas suicide bombers killed seven Israeli soldiers and a U.S. woman going to Jewish settlements in Gaza on Sunday.

PLO sources said Mr. Arafat was furious, taking the attacks as an assault on his personal credibility and authority. He is stung by taunts that the 1993 peace accord has done nothing

LETTERS

Attitude towards animals must change

To the Editor:

ON BEHALF of the Jordanian Society for the Protection of Animals (JSPA), I may thank Ahmad Y. Majdoub for writing the article "Pet responsibility, pet abuse and the authorities" (the Jordan Times, April 13). It is a subject which has become of great concern to us.

Dr. Majdoub is right when he says there is much ignorance about keeping pets. We receive many complaints about dogs being kept tied on very short chains without shelters from all weather, with no water, little food and no exercise. Consequently, the dogs excrete and urinate where they are tied and live a life of misery and extreme boredom, often becoming aggressive because of it. This is similar to humans being kept in a prison in unsanitary and inhumane conditions. The dog is being "punished" by being imprisoned merely for existing. We also receive complaints that neighbours who don't like pets take pot-shots at them or shoot them over the garden wall.

If an owner hasn't time to exercise a dog then he shouldn't have one. However, there is a compromise. He can fix up a "running wire" several metres long, to which the dog's chain can be attached, so that at least it can move up and down and stretch its legs. We find that among city and suburban dwellers a German Shepherd dog is a kind of "status symbol." Some of these are kept just to look at, tied short without adequate shelter, where they can be neither a pet nor a guard dog.

Frequently, we are asked by the villagers in Wadi Seer why we walk the dogs we have at our new clinic, and sometimes children from three years upwards will throw stones at them while the dogs are actually on leads.

Children have been brought up to throw stones at dogs and cats as soon as they can walk, because the animals are regarded as "dirty." We recently found two kittens which had been stoned to death, one kilometre from the clinic. We have found many animals, including sheep, goats, donkeys and horses with an eye missing as a result of stone-throwing. Most dogs and cats are in fact very clean if looked after properly and trained the correct way. A disciplined animal is a pleasure to have, as is a disciplined child.

Most animal problems are caused by the ignorance or irresponsibility of owners, and not the animals themselves. Very few dogs are born vicious. If treated well from birth, the majority are very tractable and will be very faithful and friendly to a good owner. They will become aggressive if they are kept constantly tied short, have stones thrown at them, are not fed properly and are treated as if they are inanimate objects. They are then only defending themselves against abuse and indifference.

Dr. Majdoub rightly says that people need to be educated about pets. In February 1994 JSPA began an educational programme about the care and welfare and respect of animals, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, visiting schools to give lectures and show slides and videos. The teachers also discuss various aspects with the children. It is interesting to note that many children think it is the right thing to do to regard dogs and cats as animals to be shot at and stoned. We also have a video on training pet dogs basic obedience, for those who need to learn.

We would welcome help from the media to put the message over, but owners themselves need to make an effort to improve the situation. It is of great benefit to humans as well as animals, which should not be penalised just for being alive.

Miss Chris Larter,
JSPA,
Wadi Seer, Amman.

Features

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1995 7

Kabariti heads for New York

(Continued from page 12)

tions and on mutual commitments towards disarmament."

He added: "We have to have commitments by all countries in favour of the regime of non-proliferation, both regionally and internationally."

Mr. Musa called for "true universality" of the treaty, arguing that its credibility would be undermined if it is not applied to all governments.

"We cannot accept a commitment on the part of some, and non-commitment on the part of others," he said.

Sudan and Iran issued a joint communiqué Saturday saying Middle East peace could not be achieved until the region is free of nuclear weapons.

The communiqué was issued at the end of a five-day visit by Iran's parliament speaker, Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, who met with Sudan's military ruler, Omar Hassan Al Bashir and other officials.

The communiqué said the two nations concluded the peace process was intended

to maintain the "Zionist regime" in the region. It said liberating Jerusalem from Israeli rule should be a priority for Muslims.

Lebanon said meanwhile it will not sign an indefinite extension of the NPT until Israel does.

"We think that it is not possible to ask us as a non-nuclear state to sign a treaty like this one while nuclear states — especially ones in the region, and I mean Israel — are not asked to join the treaty," Foreign Minister Faris Bouez said.

Mr. Bouez was speaking to reporters at Beirut airport before heading for New York for the three-week U.N. conference.

Mr. Bouez said Beirut backed the principle of the treaty "but we think that the universality of the treaty — meaning the joining of nuclear states, especially Israel — will give the accord the necessary credibility."

He said he will consult with representatives of Arab states and non-aligned countries in "order to take the suitable stand according to this principle."

Baghdad rejects oil deal

(Continued from page 1)

Sheikh Mohammad, also crown prince of the UAE state of Dubai, in an interview with Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper and carried by the UAE media.

"We have to work to bring them (Iraqi people) back to the ranks of the Arab Nation," he added.

Sheikh Mohammad said he stood by his remarks earlier this year "demanding lifting of the siege (U.N. embargo) of the Iraqi people and helping them return to their Arab Nation," the official WAM news agency quoted him as saying.

The UAE fought in the U.S.-led multinational force which defeated Iraq in the war over Kuwait, its partner in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

"No doubt Iraq had committed a grave mistake by occupying Kuwait. That is why we supported Kuwaiti people and fought along their side to regain their land," Sheikh Mohammad said.

"Thank God, Kuwait is back... and now we are obliged as Arabs not to let the Iraqi people down. We have to work to bring them back to the ranks of the Arab Nation," he added.

Iraq on Sunday also began preparing the country's be-

leaguered population for more hardship after rejecting the U.N. offer.

Reminiscent of the days prior to the 1991 Gulf war, the state-owned radio and television frequently interrupted its normal programme to carry snippets extolling the Iraqis and reminding them of their determination.

Stern face announcers reminded the Iraqis that how they shed "rivers of blood and offered the dearest sacrifices," in their fight against America. "You may have to do that again," said the announcers.

The television showed President Saddam talking to old women with men in the background vowing to fight "Satan America." It was not immediately clear when the pictures were taken.

Average Iraqis on the street appeared not convinced.

"We had high hopes that our government will accept the plan, now we see there is no ray of hope for us," said a middle-aged woman interviewed on the street.

Most Iraqis went to bed Saturday in hope that their government will eventually accept the U.N. offer, but they woke up to read newspapers that ran banner headline giving reasons for rejecting the oil sell off.

Calls for freedom on Easter

(Continued from page 1)

The dual holiday attracted thousands to the 800-year-old Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where according to tradition Jesus Christ was crucified, buried and resurrected.

Worshippers inched their way through the cavernous, dimly lit complex of chapels and shrines, which is shared by six churches including the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Armenian and Egyptian Coptic communities.

Organ music and hymns mixed with the murmur of the crowd.

Near the entrance, the devout fell to their knees and kissed the stone of unction, where tradition says the body of Jesus was covered with a shroud and anointed after being removed from the cross.

Outside, hundreds of Arab Catholic scouts, a Palestinian youth group, passed through the cobblestone alleys as parents watched.

In Gaza City, meanwhile, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat visited the Latin church, where he was greeted by hundreds of worshippers with smiles and kisses.

In the Vatican City, embracing the victims of civil strife, Pope John Paul II sent a message of peace to peoples seeking "recognition of their deepest aspirations," including the Kurds and Palestinians.

Elsewhere on the day Christians celebrate their belief in Christ's resurrection, armoured personnel carriers and troops guarded worshippers in the Philippines amid sharply heightened tensions between Christians and Muslims.

Police also deployed around doomsday churches in South Korea. Some of the sects predicted the world's destruction before Easter

dawn and dozens of the faithful prayed in anticipation of the end. When a predicted doomsday did not pan out in 1992, sect members rioted.

In his traditional "urbi et orbi" address from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, the Pope spoke to the people of Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burundi and southern Sudan.

"To families torn apart by war, to the victims of hatred and violence... the church does not hesitate to renew the paschal message of peace, reminding everyone of our common origin in the one God," he said.

More than 50,000 people filled St. Peter's Square under an icy drizzle. An ocean of umbrellas covered the square, brightened by splashes of colour from tulips and rhododendron.

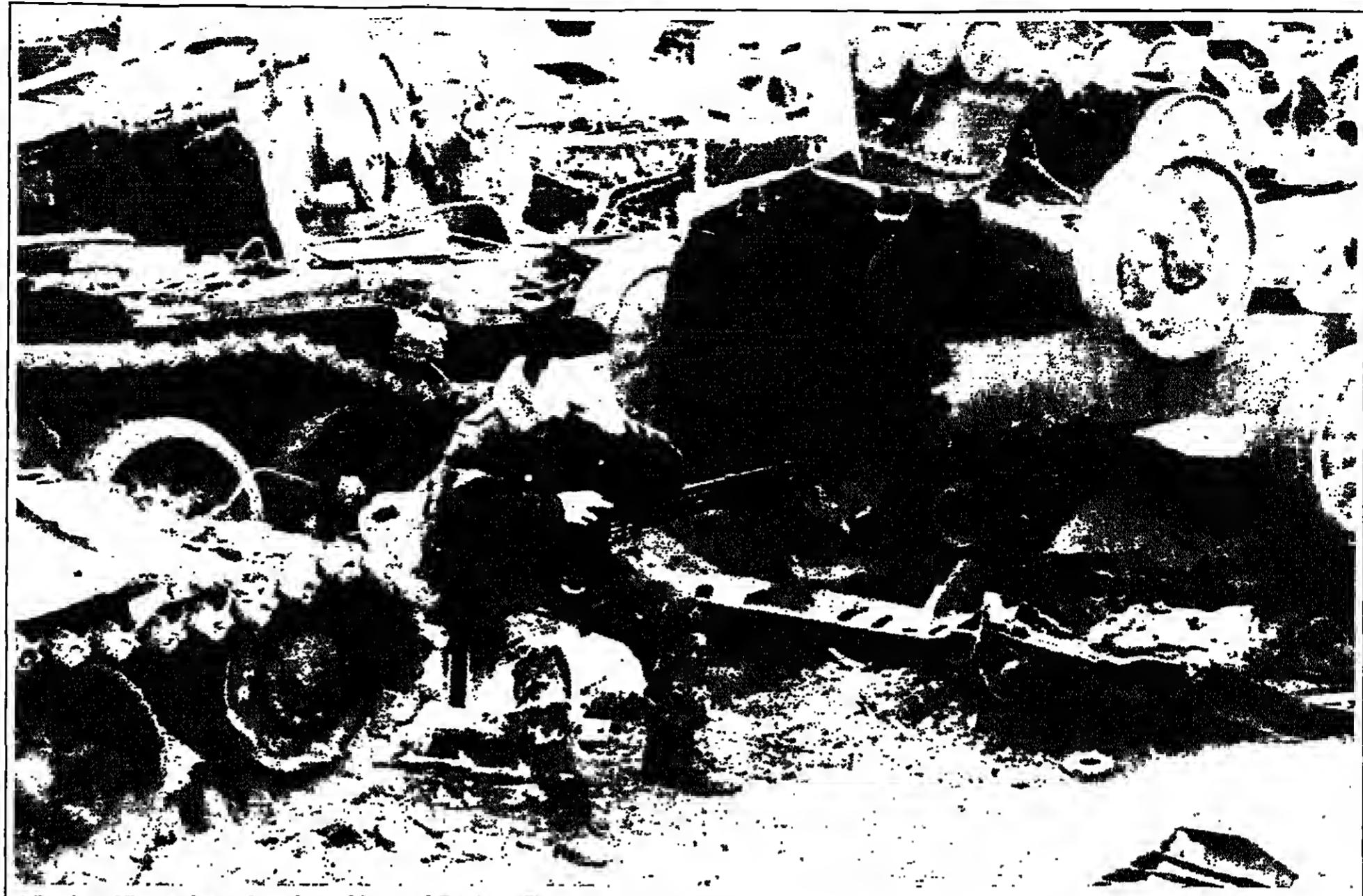
The 74-year-old Pope looked tired after Saturday night's Easter vigil in the basilica. But his voice was strong.

"Urbi et orbi" is Latin for "to the city and to the world." The phrase reflects the Pope's role as bishop of Rome and leader of the world's 950 million Catholics.

Earlier, Pope John Paul celebrated Easter Mass. This year it was inside the basilica because of the miserable weather.

The church proposes dialogue as the only path able to promote just and fair solutions, for a coexistence marked with respect and mutual acceptance," he said.

While the pontiff frequently has expressed support for Palestinian rights, it was a rare mention of the Kurds.



A Russian soldier stands guard at a depot of destroyed Russian military equipment near Grozny

Ruins of Grozny seething with disease, distrust

By Sebastian Smith

Agence France Presse

GROZNY — Russian soldiers charge triumphantly around Grozny in their tanks these days, but the city is in ruins, on the point of epidemics, and seething with distrust.

Before Grozny looks like a normal place," said Yazit Abubakarov, charged by the city with restoring utilities.

More than a month since the end of heavy fighting in Grozny, 40 per cent of the city's former population of 400,000 has returned, Mr. Abubakarov said.

But driving past the endless rows of houses wiped out by Russian bombs and shells before the rebels abandoned Grozny in December, the Russian army now controls roughly two-thirds of Chechnya and Moscow said Friday "active fighting" had ended and rebel holdouts had retreated to the hills.

Despite the constant presence of Russian soldiers, ethnic-Russian civilians interviewed across Grozny said that they feel insecure, that they would leave as soon as possible and that they did not trust the Chechens.

"They're already back, the Chechens, they're buying the Russians out and taking over. The militia is already run by Chechens," he said.

Chechens were more forgiving to their Russian fellow residents, but scathing about the war.

"This was totally senseless barbarity," said Magomed Ozarov, 53, surveying the blackened ruins of the Presidential Palace.

"What right did they have to do this? They have no soul, no one with any soul or beliefs could have done

or have fed on human bodies, Dr. Akhuyadov said.

The war to crush President Dzhokhar Dudayev's three-year drive for independence from Moscow has brought devastation, disease and also distrust.

Thousands of people have been killed and tens of thousands wounded since Moscow's troops marched into Chechnya in December. The Russian army now controls roughly two-thirds of Chechnya and Moscow said Friday "active fighting" had ended and rebel holdouts had retreated to the hills.

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this," he said.

Like other Chechens, Mr. Ozarov said he had nothing against Russians, only the Kremlin. "The Russian people living here are fine, it's their leaders I hate," he said.

But he admitted, relations will be complicated: "After this, people could hate the Russians. No one loves them when they do that."

There has been major looting, although no one agrees who is responsible. "The people blame the soldiers and the soldiers blame the people," said Gelani Didiyev, a 38-year-old Chechen returning to the capital for the first time.

There are odd sniping incidents at night and Russian soldiers occasionally shoot suspects dead, officials said.

"We couldn't get the Dudayev lot out any other way. They wouldn't put down their weapons," said Vladimir Peshov, a 19-year-old APC machinegunner.

less soldiers took turns posing for pictures with a rifle and bayonet in front of the bulk of the Presidential Palace, now adorned by a small Russian flag.

But just a few kilometres outside Grozny, although under Russian control, the young conscripts immediately became tense, putting on helmets and checking weapons.

"Come on lets get out of here. I've only got four days to go and I don't want anything to happen," said the 25-year-old commander of an APC, who would only give his first name Sergei, during a patrol south of Grozny.

The soldiers said they felt no remorse for their part in destroying Grozny, although they were doing their job.

"We couldn't get the Dudayev lot out any other way. They wouldn't put down their weapons," said Vladimir Peshov, a 19-year-old APC machinegunner.

Rabbani, Hekmatyar forces clash near Sarobi in east

KABUL (AFP) — Minor clashes were reported between groups loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and former Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in the vicinity of the eastern district centre Sarobi, some 70 kilometres east of Kabul.

It was only an incident between local commanders, not an organised fight," noted General Yunus Qanooni, chief of the political department of the Defence Ministry.

Mr. Qanooni said the clashes, which occurred Friday, started after a pro-Rabbani commander stepped on a landmine and was killed.

"Shooting started because the death of their commander stirred the emotions of his men," elaborated Mr. Qanooni.

He said the pro-Rabbani troops held Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction fighters responsible for laying the landmine, but other than this there was no other frontline

tension between the two rival factions.

Mr. Hekmatyar was pushed out of his south Kabul bases by pro-Rabbani troops exactly two months ago, after which he retreated to Sarobi,

some 70 kilometres east of Kabul.

Although Hezb-e-Islami suffered a major setback in and around Kabul, both at the hands of pro-Rabbani forces and the militant Taliban religious movement, Western analysts have not yet ruled Hekmatyar out of the Afgabao politico-military scene.

It is doubtful whether Mr. Hekmatyar can stage a comeback with force sufficient to threaten Kabul again.

However, his men still blockade the eastbound national highway and control the capital's hydro-electric power source of power, which is more than a minor irritation to the Rabbani government.

At the moment, the Rabbani government is the only one with power in the country.

On the southern and western Kabul frontlines Mr.

Israelis kill 3 in Hebron

(Continued from page 1)

day troops located the rebels who launched the ambush and killed 18 of their fighters in an overnight clash.

In a leaflet, Hamas renewed its condemnation of what it called an extension of "Zionist military courts." It urged the Palestinian National Authority to cancel the court rulings and free all Palestinian prisoners.

The church proposes dialogue as the only path able to promote just and fair solutions, for a coexistence marked with respect and mutual acceptance," he said.

Elsewhere on the day Christians celebrate their belief in Christ's resurrection, armoured personnel carriers and troops guarded worshippers in the Philippines amid sharply heightened tensions between Christians and Muslims.

Police also deployed around doomsday churches in South Korea. Some of the sects predicted the world's destruction before Easter

Explosions from rockets fired by Super Cobra helicopters targeted the rebels who launched the ambush and killed 18 of their fighters in an overnight clash.

The Turkish military says they have killed 464 rebels so far, and have lost 56 of their own troops.

Four separate clashes were also reported in southeastern Turkey between the army and the rebels on Sunday.

Thirteen rebels were killed in Erzincan, Bitlis, Mardin and Kars, the Anatolia agency said.

About 25,000 Turkish troops, backed by assault helicopters, moved in on a Kurdish rebel stronghold in a rugged eastern province on Sunday, military officials said.

Elsewhere a Palestinian

rebels are completely surrounded and under our control. The PPK in the area will be taken dead or alive soon," a military official told Reuters.

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Muslims struggle against stereotypes in the U.S.

By Slobodan Lekic

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A spate of terrorism blamed on Islamic radicals — especially the 1993 bombing of New York's World Trade Centre — has left some of America's 5 million Muslims discouraged and unsure of their acceptance as loyal

U.S. citizens.

Progress in the Middle East peace process and sympathy for Palestinian children living in Israeli-occupied Arab lands had generally helped the image of Muslims in the eyes of mainstream America.

Also, an increase in immigration in recent years due in part to turmoil in parts of the Islamic World exposed more Americans to Muslims in urban neighbourhoods and workplaces.

Muslim leaders stress their appreciation for rights their communities enjoy in the United States.

"Muslims are more comfortable here than in many places because of the constitutionally guaranteed freedom of religion and expression," said Nihad Awad, head of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

But, like other minorities before them, Muslims have to earn respect. Violent acts perpetrated by Islamic extremists have made that passage more difficult, Mr. Awad and other community representatives said.

"We feel it will do great damage to civil liberties in this country," Mr. Saffuri said.

To fight back, the community has issued a brochure titled "if you are visited by the FBI" advising readers to immediately contact a lawyer or the Ameri-

cian Muslim Council for advice and help.

And to improve the community's image, several Muslim advocacy groups have launched anti-defamation drives.

Last year Muslims and Arabs were outraged by the action film "True Lies," which depicted them as anti-American terrorists.

After vehement protests, 20th Century Fox executives agreed to include a line in

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1995

APEC finance ministers call for currency stability

SANUR, Indonesia (R) — Pacific rim finance ministers ended a one-day meeting Sunday without venturing to express a view on how to rein in the soaring yen, but issued a cautious appeal for more stability in currency markets.

On the sidelines, U.S. and Japanese finance ministers did tackle the region's main currency problem — what to do about the yen's surge against the dollar — but made little headway.

Some ministers said such issues were just too sensitive for the recently created Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, grouping 18 key economies from both sides of the Pacific committed to dismantling trade barriers by the year 2020.

"It was a kind of hands-off topic. I think the niceties of such meetings sort of preclude... intensive discussion of issues that might be seen to be embarrassing," Australian Treasurer Ralph Willis told Reuters financial television.

Japanese Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura and his U.S. counterpart Robert Rubin came out of their talks, on the fringes of the APEC gathering, with differing interpretations of what they had agreed with each other.

Mr. Rubin stopped well short of welcoming Japan's recent package to halt the yen's rise and spur the domestic economy.

He said the pair had agreed to continue to work together in currency markets where appropriate, but disputed suggestions by Mr. Takemura that they had agreed to strengthen cooperation:

"I don't recollect the word strengthen. My recollection is that we agreed to continue to cooperate as we have in the past," he said.

Sunday's gathering on the palm-fringed Indonesian resort island of Bali was only the second in APEC's brief history.

Officials stressed beforehand that it was a consultative meeting and would look at long-term solutions to capital and currency problems brought into sharp relief by recent market turmoil, rather than try any short-term trouble-shooting.

Ministers agreed to offer investors more economic information to help avoid sudden fund shifts. They called for more coordination between public and private sectors in financing infrastructure development.

They agreed to meet in March next year in Kyoto, Japan.

APEC's final statement noted that member states were increasingly vulnerable to rapid movements of capital which followed any sharp swings in a currency's value and affected investment in the country's economy.

"With the growth of capital flows and the increased reliance of all economies on them has come increasing vulnerability to rapid shift in the volume and directions of such flows," it said, making clear this was a cause for concern.

Larger firms with more than 5,000 employees will only account for six per cent of all new jobs in 1995, the survey said.

"Smaller and typically younger firms are taking advantage of the current economic strength to grow," said Joseph Duncan, vice president and chief economist for Dun and Bradstreet.

The survey is based on a sample of 5,000 U.S. companies selected from a database of more than 10 million American businesses. The survey is statistically representative of the distribution of firms by size and industry in the U.S. economy.

The survey showed that 24 per cent of firms with fewer than 20 employees reported plans to add jobs this year.

Survey: More than 3m jobs to be created in U.S. this year

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. executives expect more than three million jobs to be created this year, with about half coming from businesses with less than 20 employees, a survey has said.

Dun and Bradstreet Corp.'s annual "5,000 survey of employment expectations" showed that firms with less than 100 employees are expected to account for 66 per cent of all new jobs created this year.

Thirty per cent of firms with 20 to 49 employees said they would increase employment levels, and 34 per cent of firms with 50 to 99 employees expected an increase.

Executives in the retail and service sectors expected the most job growth, while manufacturing and wholesale trade businesses predicted a decline in 1995 from the year before.

While larger firms predicted growth to be slow this year, the survey found many will still add jobs and lower the number of job cuts.

Only eight per cent of companies with 25,000 or more employees predict they will cut jobs this year, compared to 24 per cent during 1994.

Twenty-one per cent of these companies expect to add jobs this year, up three per cent from a year ago.

The survey also showed more employee raises this year.

Executives in mining, manufacturing, transportation, utilities, financial services, real estate, wholesale trading and the government expect to increase employee compensation.

Dun and Bradstreet is the world's largest marketer of information, software and services for businesses.

Iran not to suffer much from U.S. restrictions

DUBAI (R) — Iran is not expected to suffer greatly from a proposed widening of U.S. trade sanctions but experts said Sunday Tehran would need a few weeks to find new customers if U.S. firms were barred from lifting its crude oil.

"It will zero out in the end, nobody will win and no one will lose," said a Western oil executive who frequently visits Iran.

The White House is considering options to extend trade restrictions between U.S. companies and Iran. Last month it issued an order barring U.S. firms from working to develop Iran's oil and gas industry.

But the executive said if U.S. firms were barred from purchasing Iranian crude, Tehran "will eventually find new customers to lift its oil. It will take a few weeks to sort itself out."

He said he did not expect such a ban to include foreign subsidiaries of U.S. firms.

"The Americans will have to go somewhere else to compensate the loss of Iranian crude, taking up shares of other customers who will in turn go to Iran to meet their needs," he added.

Many American oil companies do business in Iran through subsidiaries with equipment manufactured in Europe and Asia to bypass a ban on export of U.S. technology to the Islamic republic.

"You just can't ignore a country with Iran's size and (oil and gas) potential," said an industry expert. Iran has the world's second largest gas reserves after Russia.

Iran, a terrorist state in the eyes of Washington, has had tense ties with the United States since the 1979 Islamic revolution and the two sides often trade accusations.

Washington, seeking to isolate Iran internationally, applies pressure on allies and international financial institutions not to help Tehran on loans and technology.

Managing director of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC), Ahmad Rahgozar, threatened in remarks published Sunday to scrap contracts for supplying \$240 million worth of petrochemicals to three U.S. firms.

He told the English-language daily Iran News: "Over the last four months it (NPC) has refused to supply petrochemical projects to these companies which is a great loss to them."

But experts said failure to supply the three unnamed firms was probably due to domestic shortages.

Japan says yen debts with developing countries stand

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan again rejected calls by many developing countries for an easing of the cost of servicing loans denominated in yen which has risen in line with the fall of the dollar.

"We feel sympathy for nations holding yen loans amid the yen's surge," a Japanese foreign ministry official told AFP. "But so far, we have no plan to ease the burden only because of the short-term fluctuation in foreign exchange rates."

Many Asian currencies are linked to the dollar and many exports of commodities from Asian countries are priced in dollars.

The official said that the ministry had received scores of requests from debtor nations, particularly from Asia where 78.3 per cent of total low-interest loans by Japan are held.

At the end of 1993, Indonesia topped the loan list, with 2.46 trillion yen (\$20 billion), followed by India with 1.4 trillion yen and China with 1.3 trillion yen.

"We acknowledge their difficulties of repayment, but it is a rule that they must repay in yen because they borrow in yen," the officials said, ruling out possible renegotiation

over the issue in the near future.

Meanwhile, the surging yen has two sides for many foreign importers, making their products cheaper but threatening sales if the high exchange rate throws Japan back into a recession, businesses and analysts have said.

"It doesn't do much good if your customers are losing money and can't buy your products," said Cedric Talbot, president of British-based A.F. Japan Ltd.

Mr. Talbot acknowledged that his company had profited from a rise of 16 per cent in the value of the yen against the dollar since the beginning of the year. His company has won contracts from Japanese automakers because the price of the parts he sells, many of which are imported from the United States, has fallen.

"But when it hits 80 yen to the dollar, that's ridiculous," Mr. Talbot said.

Ted Iwaki, chairman of Applied Materials of Japan, a U.S.-based company importing semiconductors and other computer parts into Japan, said that his firm been able to cut its prices because of the rise of the yen.

Greenspan says inflation is under control worldwide

WASHINGTON (AP) — Inflation is under control around the globe and the job of central banks worldwide is to keep up the progress, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has said.

On another issue, the head of the U.S. central bank rejected more regulation to prevent another investment bank collapse like the one suffered by Baring Brothers and Co., urging tighter self-policing by private firms instead.

"An environment conducive to stable product prices and to maintaining sustainable economic growth is central responsibility of central banks," Mr. Greenspan said in a speech to a monetary policy conference in Stockholm, Sweden.

"Perhaps the most important development that has occurred in recent years has been the shift from an environment of inflationary expectations built into both business planning and financial contracts toward an environment of lower inflation. It is important that progress continue," Mr. Greenspan said.

"Few now question the overall benefits for economic growth and stability of the dramatic slowdown in the rate of price inflation on a worldwide basis over the past decade," Mr. Greenspan said. "Fewer should question the need to maintain a credible long-run commitment to price stability."

As for the collapse of Baring Brothers, the British investment house that lost nearly \$1 billion in the Asian futures markets, Mr. Greenspan said "one lesson" is that "large losses can be created quite efficiently." Today's technology enables single individuals to initiate massive transactions with very rapid execution.

But he said putting up barriers to technology or derivatives is not the answer because, "suppressed markets in one location would be rapidly displaced by others outside the reach of government controls and taxes."

Greater cooperation and coordination among central banks also can assure that bank failures do not lead to panic, he said. "Provision of adequate liquidity is essential to effective containment of disturbances," Mr. Greenspan said.

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Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1995

JD10m private sector company to exploit Jordan mineral resources

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After several years of deliberations, the government has given shape to a private sector entity to exploit Jordan's mineral resources, particularly in the underdeveloped south of the Kingdom, Energy of Mineral Resources Minister Samih Darwazeh said Sunday.

Expected to start operations in about two months, the JD 10 million capital company will be the first such venture to focus on minerals such as feldspar, silica, gypsum, basalt, clay etc., often cited by experts as an area left unexplored for many years despite indications that it could prove to be very lucrative.

One of the main reasons cited by the government for the lack of interest in the area was shortage of funds as well as a drive to gather private sector interest in the venture rather than investing state funds in mineral exploration.

The proposed formation of the company, which has yet to

be registered, follows the establishment of a JD 20 million capital state-owned firm to explore for oil and natural gas in the Kingdom. That company is also expected to take off around July 1.

Mr. Darwazeh said the founders of the mineral exploration firm, which will operate as a holding group, included the semi-government phosphates mines company, cement factories, ceramics company and glass wool company in addition to firms from Saudi Arabia and Egypt which he did not identify.

While some of the founding firms are majority state-owned, "the government will have nothing to do with the new company" in terms of official control, said the minister.

The founders will provide 75 per cent of the capital, and the rest, 25 per cent will be raised from the public through shares," the minister told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Darwazeh said the Ministry of Energy had

Mineral Resources had invited these companies and provided them with detailed studies of the mineral potential in Jordan and urged them to launch the venture.

"Jordan, particularly the south, is rich with minerals," said the minister. "All you have to do is to start working some of the items."

Mr. Darwazeh cited the high-quality silica available in the desert, widely used in glass industries, as an example of the potential. "We are talking about millions of tonnes of silica here," he said, noting that silica could also be used in non-glass industries after processing.

Initial studies of the desert sand have indicated the presence of vital components for fibre optic cables, precision lenses, computer chips and other industrial ceramics, according to experts at the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

Also found were fillers for foundries, elements for sewage treatment systems, and ingredients for rubbers, paints, adhesives and scouring powers.

The studies also indicated that Jordan need not import some of the raw material it buys from Turkey and other countries for use in its factories and could instead export some of the items.

Mr. Darwazeh said the proposed company will not launch an all-out approach and try to develop exploitation of all minerals at the same time.

The company will take one item at a time, make technical and feasibility studies and start processing and marketing" before going on to the next item, he said.

"The government will encourage any project" along these lines, he said. The government has already given permission to the private sector venture "to explore these resources" and "I hope it will start operations in about two months" after 25 per cent of the capital is raised through a public issue of shares, he added.

About 300 visit Petra every day

A TOTAL of 67,922 persons visited Petra during the first quarter of this year. Fees collected from visitors amounted to JD 1,190,184. A monthly 12,687 foreign tourists and 3,462 Jordanians visited Petra in January; 13,260 foreign and 850 Jordanians visited the city in February and 33,400 foreigners and 5,150 Jordanians visited the city in March. According to an official at Petra, the city is witnessing a very active tourist season with approximately 300 visitors every day in addition to school trips and private visits (Al Ra'i).

But experts said failure, surely, the three firms was probably due to domestic shortages.

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Kingdom's Davis Cup team defeats UAE 2-1

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's Davis Cup team scored their only win of the tournament when they defeated the United Arab Emirates 2-1 on the final day of their Asia/Oceania Zone Group 3 Championship, which concluded in Dubai Sunday.

Imad Abu Hamda won the first singles match, while Faris Azzouni lost the second singles. Abu Hamda and Khaled Hussein later teamed up for the doubles match which they won to secure Jordan's first victory.

The results of the Kingdom's team mean that Jordan will again play in Group 3 next year after losing their chance of being promoted to the senior division Group 2 in 1996 since only the top team in the six-nation group will be promoted.

The Kingdom's team were disappointed Saturday when they lost their playoff against Pacific Oceania 3-0.

Earlier Jordan had lost 3-0 against Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh, and 2-1 to Lebanon.

With team veteran Imad Abu Hamda out of action with a bad cold, Khaled Hussein lost the first singles match 6-3, 6-2 to Lency Tenai of Pacific Oceania. Montik Kailahi then beat Jordan's Faris Azzouni 1-6, 6-2, 6-2. Kailahi and Tenai later teamed up for the doubles against Hussein.

and 15-year-old Khaled Nafa'a to win 6-3, 6-3.

The round robin competition was played on a hectic, daily two singles and one doubles match format, with only the top team in the group being promoted to Group 2 whose winner is promoted to Group 1 before joining the prestigious World Group which includes teams such as the United States, Germany, and others.

The Asia/Oceania Zone Group 3 tournament in Dubai is one of the largest in Davis Cup competition as 13 teams played 108 matches at one single

venue.
Singapore led Group A which includes Kuwait, Bahrain, Syria, Oman, Kazakhstan and Brunei. In Group A matches, Bahrain defeated Oman 2-1, Singapore beat Syria 3-0 and Kazakhstan overcame Brunei 2-1.

Saudi Arabia led Group B after defeating Bangladesh 3-0 while Lebanon also defeated the UAE 3-0.

Pacific Oceania are second behind the Saudis while Bangladesh, who led the six-team Group B until Friday, slipped to third position, followed by Lebanon, Jordan and the UAE.

STANDINGS before Sunday's matches

GROUP A

Nations	Points	Matches Won	Sets Won	Sets Lost
Singapore	5	15	30	4
Bahrain	5	12	25	5
Kuwait	3	10	23	10
Syria	2	6	14	19
Kazakhstan	1	4	12	28
Oman	1	4	8	25
Brunei	1	3	6	24

GROUP B

Nations	Points	Matches Won	Sets Won	Sets Lost
Saudi Arabia	4	10	20	6
Pacific Oceania	3	9	19	11
Bangladesh	3	8	17	10
Lebanon	2	7	17	11
Jordan	0	1	6	22
UAE	0	1	3	22

Rangers rake title without playing

GLASGOW (R) — Rangers were gift-wrapped the Scottish League soccer title on Saturday when Glasgow rivals Celtic went down 2-0 at relegation threatened Aberdeen.

Rangers secured their seventh successive championship — and 45th in all — without kicking a ball after Celtic, the only side capable of catching them, slipped up.



Martina Navratilova

No comeback in mind says Navratilova

NEW YORK (R) — She's playing on the U.S. Federation Cup team next week, she will double up with Steffi Graf at Wimbledon — but Martina Navratilova has no plans for a singles comeback.

"No. Not at all," Navratilova said in a telephone news conference from her home in Aspen, Colorado. "I am quite happy where I am and I don't intend to go back. I have no reason to go back."

Navratilova retired from playing singles fulltime at the end of last year, having won 18 Grand Slam singles titles including a record nine Wimbledon crowns. She was ranked number in the world seven times in her career.

"If I had quit at 30 I may have changed my mind, but I quit at 38 so I think I quit at just the right time," Navratilova said.

"I feel I don't have any regrets about playing too long or not playing long enough. I think this is the right time for me to stop."

"I have done my part and I am on to the rest of my life."

Navratilova's role is expected to be a limited one in next weekend's opening-round match against Austria in Aventura, Florida, despite having been a member of three championship U.S. teams and having a 36-0 career Fed Cup record in singles and doubles.

But that limited role suits Navratilova just fine.

"I am quite happy with my supporting role and hopefully will do my part," Navratilova said of her partnership with Gigi Fernandez for the one doubles match in the best-of-five-match format.

Lindsay Davenport and Mary Joe Fernandez are listed as the singles players. There are two singles matches scheduled for the first day Saturday and two more Sunday followed by the doubles.

At the time of her retirement, Navratilova said that she would continue to play doubles on a limited basis. Just last week it was announced that she and Graf will play doubles at Wimbledon this summer.

Nantes' 32-match unbeaten league streak ends

PARIS (Agencies) — French league leaders Nantes lost in the French championship for the first time this season on Saturday after a record 32 matches unbeaten since the start of the season.

But Strasbourg's 2-0 home victory still leaves Nantes 11 points ahead of Paris Saint Germain and virtually assured of the title.

Defender Franck Lelouet's header from a Xavier Gravelaine corner and Russian Alexander Mostovoi's freekick, in the 65th and 87th minutes respectively, was enough to beat the champions in waiting.

Their unbeaten sequence had included 19 wins and 13 draws. The previous record had been held by Paris Saint Germain with 27 matches in the middle of last season.

Lyon, with six matches left, could only draw 1-1 at Bordeaux. Lyon's Franck Gava scored in the 64th minute, but the south western side equalised with three minutes left.

Paris Saint Germain, minus its top players, notched up a morale-boosting 3-0 win at 10-man Montpellier on Friday, days before its biggest ever match in Europe.

Jean-Philippe Sechet, Pascal Noume and Brazilian Rai earned PSG the win and they are two points behind Lyon.

Coch Luis Fernandez had been vindicated by the result after criticism of fielding a weak side.

Ricardo and Valdo, Vincent Guerin, Paul Le Guen, David Ginola and

Rice scores 56 to lead Miami over Orlando

MIAMI (AP) — Glen Rice scored a franchise-record 56 points, high in the NBA this season, to lead Miami to a 123-117 victory over Orlando on Saturday.

Rice, who scored 13 points in the final five minutes, broke his own team record of 46 points and topped Michael Jordan's 55-point performance against the New York Knicks earlier this year.

Rice hit 20 of 27 shots,

including seven of eight 3-pointers, and added nine of 10 free throws.

Shaquille O'Neal had 38 points and 16 rebounds for the Magic, who have lost five consecutive road games and 14 of 18. Anfernee Hardaway had 28 points and 18 assists for Orlando. Horace Grant scored 21 points and Nick Anderson, returning from a four-game absence due to a concussion, had 20.

Khalid Reeves had 20 points and 14 assists for Miami, which shot 54 percent. The Magic lost despite hitting 55 percent.

Sonics 115, Warriors 99: Gary Payton, playing with a broken finger, scored 24 points and Kendall Gill, back after treatment for clinical depression, capped a fourth-quarter run that led Seattle over Golden State.

Detroit Pistons 105, Pistons 94: In Hartford, Connecticut, the Boston Celtics opened a three-game lead over Milwaukee for the Eastern Conference's eighth playoff spot. San Antonio, Phoenix and Utah for the top playoff seed in the Western Conference.

Payton, who broke his left ring finger on Thursday night against Dallas, played in his 28th straight game. Gill hadn't played since returning on Tuesday, a week after taking a medical leave for treatment of clinical depression. He scored 10 points, including two baskets that finished off a 15-2 burst in the final period. Donyell Marshall and Clifford Rozier each scored 14 to lead Golden State.

76ers 97, Nets 87: In East Rutherford, New Jersey, backup guard Jeff Grayer hit eight of his first nine shots and scored 21 points as the Philadelphia 76ers eliminated the New Jersey Nets from playoff contention.

The loss was the 13th in the last 15 games for New Jersey, which missed the playoffs for the first time in four seasons.

Shawn Bradley added 15 points, 10 rebounds and six blocks, and Dana Barros had 14 as the 76ers beat the Nets



Detroit Pistons' Mark West grabs the ball as New Jersey Nets' Chris Morris reaches in to knock it away (AFP photo)

for the second time in three games.

Rockets 98, Kings 84: In Houston, Kenny Smith scored 18 points, including 11 in the breakaway third quarter, as Houston beat Sacramento for its second straight victory with Hakeem Olajuwon back in the lineup.

After taking a 47-45 half-time lead, the Rockets used an 13-2 spurt to take a 72-61 lead with 2:12 to go in the third quarter, and Smith led the way to a 76-64 lead to start the fourth quarter.

Kings, who fell 1-12 in losses behind Denver in the race for the Western Conference's last playoff berth, have lost 24 of last 24 games in the summit. Their last victory was 100-97 on March 21, 1992.

Bullets 114, Bucks 110: In Landover, Maryland, Rookie Juwan Howard tied a season high with 31 points as the Washington Bullets broke a 13-game losing streak by nipping the Milwaukee Bucks.

Chris Webber had 29 points and 10 rebounds, and Doug Overton added 16 points as the Bullets won for the first time in four games against Milwaukee this season.

Six Bullets scored in double figures, including reserve Anthony Tucker, who had 10 points. Tucker hit three key

free throws in the final 1:29.

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Jazz 105, Clippers 83: In Salt Lake City, Tom Chambers' 15 points made him the 20th player in NBA history to surpass 20,000 career points as the Utah Jazz defeated the Los Angeles Clippers.

Karl Malone had 21 points and 17 rebounds for the Jazz, who won their third straight and fourth in five games. The victory pulled them within games of idle San Antonio in the race for the best record in the Western Conference.

Cedric Ceballos had 40 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers.

Mavericks 102, Trail Blazers 90: In Portland, Oregon, Jamal Mashburn scored 29 points, including 13 in the third period, as the Dallas Mavericks kept their playoff hopes alive with a victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

RESULTS	Seattle	115	Golden State	99
	Miami	123	Orlando	117
	Boston	129	Detroit	104
	Philadelphia	97	New Jersey	87
	Washington	114	Milwaukee	110
	Houston	98	Sacramento	84
	Utah	105	Phoenix	83
	Phoenix	119	L.A. Lakers	114
	Dallas	102	Portland	90

Charles Barkley of the Phoenix Suns, whistled for his sixth flagrant foul of the season, was suspended for Saturday night's crucial game against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Under a National Basketball Association rule instituted last season, players receive an automatic one-game suspension for any flagrant foul over five in one season.

Arsenal 2-1, Coventry 0-0: In the other end of the table, Arsenal eased their relegation fears when they destroyed relegated Ipswich with a 4-0 victory at Highbury.

Ian Wright found his goal-tonight for Thursday's European Cup Winners Cup semi-final second leg against Sampdoria with a quickfire second-half hat-trick.

Paul Merson gave Arsenal the first-half lead against visitors who had been condemned to the drop without even playing when Everton beat Newcastle on Friday night.

Wright then took over by grabbing a hat-trick in the space of nine minutes. They were his first league goals since January and took his season's tally to 25.

Ian Marshall grabbed a late goal for Ipswich.

Like Arsenal, Chelsea have also found themselves in a relegation struggle while reaching the semi-finals of the Cup Winners Cup but Glenn Hoddle's team eased their relegation fears with a crucial victory over fellow strugglers Aston Villa.

United manager Alex Ferguson had demanded that if they were to lose their title they should at least go down fighting and they will now be able to approach Monday's match with Chelsea with renewed hope.

It was a predictably comfortable victory for United

against a side who have won

just five games in their brief return to the top flight.

The points were bagged courtesy of two goals from Andy Cole and one each from Lee Sharpe and Paul Ince.

Cole had not scored since his five-goal slating of Ipswich on March 4 but he proved that he has rediscovered his touch.

Sharpe was also outstanding in the first half and could have had a hat

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1995 11

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Ajax Amsterdam down FC Groningen

GRONINGEN, Netherlands (AP) — Patrick Kluivert scored twice as Ajax Amsterdam, with an eye on Wednesday's Champions' League semifinal showdown with Bayern Munich, beat FC Groningen 4-2 on Sunday. Ajax now leads the Dutch premier division by seven points and is unbeaten in 29 matches. Kluivert's goals in the 12th and 37th minutes took him to 18 for the season and made him Ajax's top scorer. Frank De Boer also scored on 20 minutes, to give the Amsterdam club a 3-0 half time lead and Marc Overmars added a fourth on 66 minutes. But, with the match already won and Ajax dominating both possession and territory, 11th-placed Groningen showed spirit to score second-half goals through Dian Gorre and Romano Sion. International Frank Rijkaard and Jari Litmanen were rested by Ajax manager Louis Van Gaal in preparation for the clash with Bayern.

Laudrup turns down Barcelona

GLASGOW (R) — Denmark's Brian Laudrup revealed on Sunday that he has turned down an offer to join Barcelona to stay with Scottish champions Glasgow Rangers. "Barcelona made a concrete offer a couple of months ago," said Laudrup, whose brother and fellow Denmark international Michael once starred for the Nou Camp Club. "While it is always a pleasure and an honour to get an offer from a club like that, what I told them is that I'm very happy in Scotland." "I've had calls from Germany as well, but me and my family are happy here," added the 26-year-old striker who moved to Glasgow from Fiorentina of Italy for \$3.52 million in July.

U.S. coach says 'I did not resign'

MISSION VIEJO, California (R) — Bora Milutinovic has insisted he was ousted as United States national coach and had not resigned as reported earlier by the U.S. Soccer Federation. "Really, I didn't resign," Milutinovic, 51, told Reuters television on Saturday. And he indicated in the interview released on Sunday that he is taking legal advice regarding the circumstances of his departure. "They simply explained to me that I don't come into the federation's plans and our collaboration is over," added the man who last summer guided the Americans into the second round of the World Cup on home soil.

Vieira scores 5th Le Mans win

LE MANS (R) — Frenchman Alex Vieira, riding a Honda, made history with a record fifth win in the Le Mans 24-hour motorcycling race on Sunday. Vieira, combining with compatriot Rachel Nicolle and Scotsman Brian Morrison, covered 3384.52 kms by completing 764 laps to also set a distance record. Honda moved in front after Frenchman Jean-Louis Battistini, riding in the lead on a Kawasaki, fell early in the morning and broke his wrist. Kawasaki had won the race in the last three years and looked set for another triumph when Battistini, teaming with compatriot Jean D'Orgeix and Briton Terry Riner, took the lead after three hours in the race on Saturday.

AIFCO assigns Publi-Graphics for advertising campaign

An agreement was recently signed in Amman between the Arab International Food & Oil Processing (AIFCO) and Publi-Graphics Advertising Agency, whereas Publi-Graphics will carry the campaign on a regional level.

Arab Food and Oil Processing Co. Ltd. was established from a substantial Jordanian capital in order to provide and market the best quality oils in the region.

Accommodated with the latest and highest technology in the world, with special plant lines for producing margarine and shortening, managed by experienced personnel, to enhance the quality of the product. Produced to compete in local and international markets the Arab International Food and Oil Processing Co. Ltd. will launch one of its first quality products in the imminent future Murjan corn oil which will be accompanied by a campaign

to market their product in Jordan and abroad.

When asking Mr. Fouad Abel Latif, General Manager of Publi-Graphics Jordan on their advertising plan, he said:

"Being chosen by the Arab International Food and Oil Processing Co. Ltd. from several competitive agencies is our joy and pride. We have arranged on advertising campaign to cover the whole region and we are confident of our success to carry this campaign on both local and regional level.

Arab Food & Oil Processing Co. Ltd. has devoted all its resources to guarantee the quality of its products on a local and international level to provide for the consumer, the best quality and competitive pricing and we are confident that the products of this company will meet what is required and demanded by our consumer in the region."

FOR RENT
MODERN FURNISHED APARTMENTS
★ Studio of one bedroom, K & B.
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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TANIAH NIBSCHE
STORY TELMAK STUDIO INC.

THE HIDDEN CHANCE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ A 4 2

♦ 8 6 3

♦ Q 10 9 7 5 3

♦ Q 9 6 2

♦ 7 10 8 7 6

♦ 5 3 2

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♦ A K Q 3

♦ A Q 7 4

♦ A K

The bidding:

South West North East

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

3 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

6 NT Pass Pass Pass

debatable". West led a low spade, knocking out a key entry to dummy before it could be put to use. Declarer cashed the ace of clubs, only to receive the bad news that there was no way to empty the table's long clubs.

The only suit to offer any hope was diamonds. Declarer cashed the jack of hearts, then successfully finessed the queen of diamonds. When declarer cashed the ace of diamonds, East defended perfectly by jettisoning the king to West who cashed the jack of diamonds and cashed the jack of clubs for a spade trick set. A combination of bad luck and fine defense was declarer's undoing.

Despite East's heroic effort, the contract should have been fulfilled. After unlocking the high club, declarer should have led a low diamond back to the king. After cashing the spade return, declarer can get to the board with the jack of hearts, cash the queen of clubs for a spade trick and then take the diamond finesse. When that succeeds and both defenders follow to the ace, the 13th diamond becomes declarer's 13th trick.

Opening lead: Two of ♦. Sometimes it is easy to spot an additional chance to make your contract. Nuggests that are far more deep, though, are usually less important.

The hand occurred in a duplicate event. South's first two bids showed a balanced hand of 25-27 points and North decided the six-card suit made slam a possibility. Despite the fact it was a pairs contest, South's decision to correct to the higher-scoring contract was at best.

Courier upsets Agassi for Japan Open title

TOKYO (AP) — Jim Courier spoiled Andre Agassi's debut as the world No. 1, outslugging him 6-3, 6-4 Sunday in the final of the Japan Open.

Playing in chilly winds before nearly 10,000 spectators, many of them cheering for Agassi, Courier set up match point with a backhand lob just over his opponent and then claimed victory when Agassi sent a forehand long.

Agassi, who has been troubled by a back strain since Davis Cup preparations last month, was in no danger of losing his ranking. Fellow American Pete Sampras, who headed the rankings for 82 weeks until last Monday, lost two days later in the second round of a tournament in Barcelona, Spain.

"I feel like I didn't play great today by any means," Agassi said. "Some had to do with the back, some had to do with conditions and the wind, and a lot had to do with Jim and the way that he was playing."

He added: "You can't be casual or lackadaisical or compromise your movement with Jim. He's one of the best players in the world. I felt like the odds were a little bit against me going out on the second round on the fatigue factor, my back, and the conditions."

Agassi said it was nice to see Courier playing this well again, but "I'm not too excited that it's at my expense."

Courier, a former No. 1 who had gone more than 10 months without beating a top ten player, reached the final here by beating fellow American Michael Chang, ranked sixth, in the semifinals.

He collected \$156,000 for the victory.

"I've had a good week. It makes me more hungry to play well," said Courier, who now has three titles this year despite his drought against top ten players. He came to Tokyo ranked 15th in the world.

"I adapted and reacted. That's all you can do" against Agassi, he added.

"At the end I was a little nervous, but I closed it out so I feel a lot better."

Agassi, who came into the final with a 30-2 match record and three singles titles this

year, will go home with \$82,100. Because of his back strain, he already had said Saturday that he was skipping the coming week's tournament in Hong Kong for a few weeks of rest and treatment.

Courier now has won seven of his 11 meetings with Agassi, but the two had not played since Courier won in the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open in 1992.

"I broke Agassi in the second game, but Agassi broke back twice for a 3-2 lead. Then Courier broke twice, gaining the key break on a passing shot down the line, and served out the first set.

In the second set, Courier's

service break in the first game held up, and he almost broke again for the match at 3-3.

At 5-4, he came back from 15-30 with a deep forehand and angled volley combination, hit a winning lob and watched an Agassi forehand fly long.

In the women's final, Amy

Frazier saved two set points in the first set and one in the second as she foiled Kimiko Date's attempt for a fourth straight Japan Open championship.

Frazier, who lost in last year's Japan Open final to Date, took this year's title with a 7-6 (7-5), 7-5 triumph in one hour, 40 minutes.

The second-seeded American pounded deep backhands and Date, seeded first, scored with sharp angles.

Serving at 5-6 in the first set, Frazier survived two set points at 15-40 on two errors by Date.

In the tiebreak, Frazier, ranked 18th, jumped to a 6-3 lead. Date saved two set points before netting a backhand.

Date led 5-4 in the second set and had one set point that Frazier saved with a forehand down the line.

Frazier then fought off two break points at 15-40 on a Date error and a backhand winner, held serve and broke Date, taking the match with a powerful backhand serve return followed by a sharply angled short backhand.

"I adapted and reacted. That's all you can do" against Agassi, he added.

"At the end I was a little nervous, but I closed it out so I feel a lot better."

Frazier, who improved her match record for the year to 13-6, received \$25,000. Date, who is 18-3 with one tourna-

ment title and one runner-up finish this year, received \$12,000.

Frazier said she tried to be more patient than in her match with Date last year, when the sometimes tried to force a point too early, and that Date made a few more errors than usual.

"I just tried to play those (set) points like any other points. If you lose, go on to the third set and see what happens," she added. "I just tried not to let her get a lot of games in a row. Once she gets momentum, she hits a lot of winners."

Date said, "her balls are very fast and deep. It's difficult to hit back down the

TENNIS ROUNDUP

service break in the first

game held up, and he almost

broke again for the match at

3-3.

At 5-4, he came back from 15-30 with a deep forehand and angled volley combination, hit a winning lob and watched an Agassi forehand fly long.

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Jim Courier

around.

"I think I got a little tired because I was running way too far behind the baseline... I couldn't play deep enough to keep her back," she said.

In the other semi, Carsson said she thought she would have a better chance against Graf on the Westside tennis club's clay court rather than hardcourt.

"She plays way too fast on hard court. On clay, I have a little bit more time," Carlson said.

She said she has played her best tennis in Houston. She made it to the semifinals last year and hasn't played well since.

Babel won the first two games of the second set, but Carlson took the next five, overcoming six break points in the seventh game.

Babel broke Carlson's serve in the next game, but Carlson answered in the final game, securing the match with a forehand winner.

Babel said she felt a lack of

energy when she awakened Saturday morning and ran out of steam during the match.

"You have to try and it just didn't work," she said. "Next time I'll try to be in better shape."

Carlsson pulled away from a 3-3 tie in the first set and gained two games before Babel won the ninth game at love to close to 5-4. Carlson finished the set with an unreturned winner.

Larsson, Muster reach Barcelona finals

In Barcelona, Austria's Thomas Muster, probably the world's best claycourt player, will go after his 19th consecutive victory in a championship match on clay when he faces Sweden's Magnus Larsson in the Conde de Godo final.

The 25-year-old Larsson, seeded seventh in the tournament and No. 12 in the world, Saturday defeated his one-time nemesis Goran Ivanisevic 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 to advance.

Muster, seeded No. 9 in the tournament and 17th in the world, won easily in Saturday's semifinal over third-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia 6-3, 6-3.

Muster is now 15-0 in claycourt matches this season with two wins already on the surface — last weekend in Estoril, Portugal, and earlier in Mexico City.</p

Libyans threaten revenge for raid

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Protesters outside the U.N. office in the Libyan capital Tripoli are threatening to take revenge for a 1986 U.S. raid on Libya.

"We are staging the sit-in to support our demand that the (U.N.) Security Council gives us our rights and punishes as war criminals all those who took... the decision to launch the raid and those who took part in it," Mounir Charmit, a spokesman for the families of the raid's victims, told foreign journalists on Saturday night.

"If our demands are not satisfied, we will take revenge by all means," he added.

"We want revenge, revenge, revenge," shouted a tearful Mosbah Zlitni, a protester who says two of his children were killed in the raid.

The Libyan protesters, who number about 100 and include women, began their demonstration on Saturday in a tent pitched some 20 metres from the U.N. office in Tripoli.

On April 15, 1986, U.S. warplanes flying from British bases and U.S. aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean bombed targets in Tripoli and Beograd. Libya said more than 40 people were killed, nearly all civilians.

Washington said the raid was in response to an explosion at a Berlin discotheque in which two Americans were killed. The U.S. blamed Libya but Tripoli denied the charge.

Libyan leader Moammar Qadhafi on Saturday marked the anniversary with a call to the U.N. to probe all violent incidents linked to Tripoli in the past decade, including the 1988 bombing, blamed by Washington on Libya, of an airliner over the town of Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people.

The protesters have handed the U.N. office chief letters addressed to the United Nations over their demands. "We have been making these demands since 1986. But our patience has limits. If the U.N. does not satisfy our demands, that will legitimise our revenge actions as families of the victims," said Yousef Al Ayeb, the movement's coordinator.

Iraq Kurds are reluctant partners in Turkish push

SALAHUDIN (R) — Iraqi Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani, angered by Turkey's anti-rebel push in northern Iraq, is digging in his heels in talks with Ankara over future security arrangements in the region, his aides said on Sunday.

Turkey sent 35,000 troops into Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq on March 20 to attack bases of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) which is fighting a separatist insurgency inside Turkey.

Turkey says after it withdraws — possibly within weeks — it wants the cooperation of Mr. Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) of Jalal Talabani in stopping PKK cross-border raids.

In 1992, in a similar but smaller incursion into northern Iraq, Turkey secured the help of the Iraqi Kurds in attacking the Turkish Kurdish PKK.

Their three-party agreement broke down and this time Mr. Barzani appears unwilling to be drawn into Turkey's war. He has called for Turkey to pull out of northern Iraq.

"I think he will ask for more concrete things from Turkey than in 1992 in return for his help," Sami Abdul Rahman, a senior KDP politburo member, told Reuters.

"Like help with rebuilding border villages and giving peoples incentives to do the job. It must provide more logistical help than before — that is why the agreement broke down...we have begged Turkey and the PKK not to bring their fight here."

Iraqi Kurds complain of damage to their property and civilian injuries caused by the incursion. Turkey denies its troops have attacked civilians and accuses the PKK "terrorists" of killing villagers.

Mr. Barzani, bitter from losing his capital Erbil and some 200 fighters to the PUK last month, is unlikely to cooperate well with his old rival despite reaching a ceasefire this month.

"Barzani wants all military out of Erbil first and that is not acceptable to the PUK," he added.

5 killed in blasts in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Two people were killed and five injured in three blasts in the western Algerian town of Mostaganem, the daily *La Tribune* reported Sunday.

The bombs which went off Thursday had been planted in a high school and college near a police station in central Mostaganem, the paper said.

"More than one million Libyans are ready to fight all along the Libyan coasts, and to change the desert, waters, and sands into a bell... our fighting is continuing and shame and defeat to the imperialists and the traitors."

Col. Qadhafi, two weeks after saying Libya would leave the United Nations, also reaffirmed his support for its authority.

The Libyans leader was speaking from his Tripoli home on the ninth anniversary of the 20-minute raid that killed his 15-year-old daughter.

He said the United Nations should show its independence by investigating the U.S. raid while it investigates the Lockerbie bombing.

We want the submission of any international issue to the Security Council, and any dispute between Libya and America be referred to the Security Council," he said.

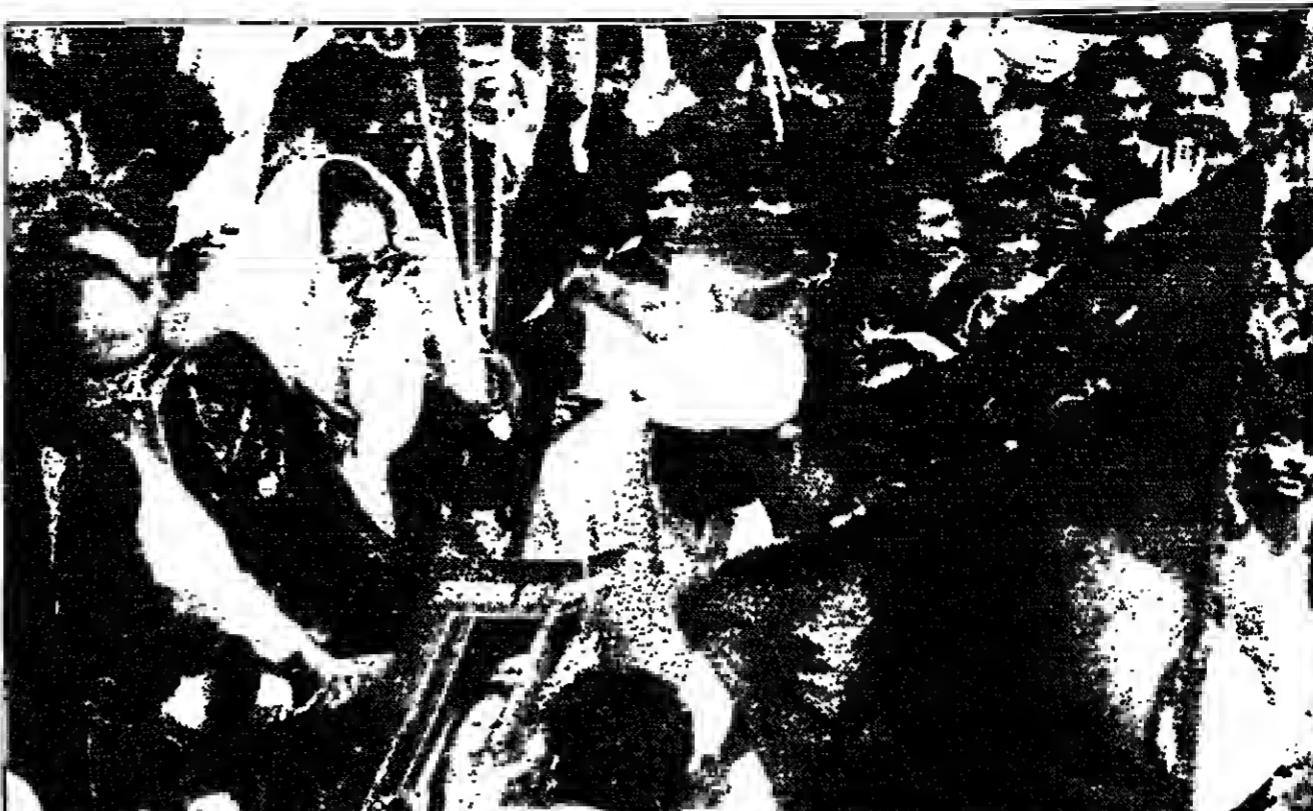
"We continue to adhere to the U.N. Charter" and recognise that the U.N. settles the disputes between the nations," Col. Qadhafi said.

He said in an interview with the New York Times published April 5 that the United Nations had outlived its usefulness and that Libya would be leaving it.

Libya has been under a ban on air travel and economic and diplomatic relations since 1992 because it refuses to hand over two men wanted in the Lockerbie bombing.

Col. Qadhafi also indicated Libya might drop its demand to have former President Ronald Reagan, who ordered the attack, put on trial in a Libyan court because he is suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

"This does not play down the seriousness of these crimes and foolish policies committed in the Reagan era," Col. Qadhafi said.



TRIUMPHANT RETURN: Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto adjusts her scarf as her party supporters thronged the airport to greet her upon her return home from the United States on Sunday. Ms. Bhutto said her week-long visit had defined parameters for a more mature Pakistan-U.S. relationship in the future (see page 5) (AFP photo)

Kabariti heads for U.N., says NPT should cover Israel

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti headed for New York on Sunday to take part in a review of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Jordan supports Egypt's stand that Israel should endorse the convention, which will lead to international inspections of the Jewish state's nuclear installations.

Israel, which reportedly possesses 200 nuclear warheads, says it would not sign the treaty before Arab states like Syria, Libya and Iraq as well as Iran make peace with the Jewish state.

In departure comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Kabariti said Jordan "will seek to ensure that Israel will not be excluded from joining the treaty and will be committed to its conditions."

"Israel's unclear programmes have to be internationally supervised to ensure that they will not cause any security or environmental risks in the region," Mr. Kabariti said.

In other developments, the daily *Al Watan* reported that Abdul Kader Hadi Ben-Naaman, a journalist with the Algerian press agency, was being held by authorities in the far south region of Tamanrasset, for writing an article, which had not been published, about the two leaders of the FIS, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj.

Both leaders are under house arrest in an unknown location.

Mr. Ben-Naaman's attorney said his client was arrested two days ago and charged with threatening national security, after being detained for 11 days.

The NPT, which entered

into force in 1970 for 25 years, pledges all but the five atomic powers to forego nuclear weapons, accept safeguards on all nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency and have access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

On the eve of the U.N. meeting, Egypt on Sunday called again for Israel to sign the international convention.

But in making his appeal, Foreign Minister Amr Musa did not repeat Egypt's earlier threat to support renewal of the treaty if Israel does not join.

"There is no question of signing — that Israel would sign or Egypt would sign," Mr. Musa told reporters in Cairo. "But we call on Israel to join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, that's for sure."

He added: "This is our position and it will continue to be the same."

The United States has been lobbying for indefinite extension of the pact. But some developing nations have argued for periodic review.

Jordan will also coordinate with Arab countries and the Non-Aligned Movement to guarantee that all countries are committed to the treaty, including Israel, he said.

The U.N. review of the NPT begins in New York on Monday.

Representatives of the 17 NPT signatories are to attend the New York session. Voting on extending the treaty would take place before the forum ends on May 12.

(Continued on page 7)

Manila believes Saudi jailed in U.S. key figure in extremist group

MANILA (AP) — An Arab businessman jailed in California had proposed plan to Mr. Barzani in which both militias would patrol the 320-kilometre border with Turkey, each Iraqi guerrilla getting \$50 per month plus food from Turkey.

The northern part of Iraqi Kurdistan, including the entire Turkish border, is controlled by the KDP. Iraqi government forces to the south are kept at bay by a Western air exclusion zone imposed after the Gulf war in 1991.

"We would not allow the PUK to send any men to the border," Mr. Abdul Rahman said.

"We do not want the PUK to launch attacks on other countries from here, we condemn them. The PUK sold out on Turkey in 1992. It told Ankara it would destroy the PUK. It told the PUK it would destroy Turkey. I thought Turkey had learned from this."

He said it was not yet decided if Mr. Barzani would accept an invitation to go to Turkey for further talks.

But other KDP members said Mr. Barzani needed to go to Turkey as the incursion was damaging his political and military position.

Relations between Turkey and Barzani were so good that people thought we had both arranged the incursion," one KDP official said.

"But we only heard about it when the tanks rolled in. The incursion has done a lot of harm to people. Villages had to be evacuated, at least 40 villagers, there has been loss of life, of property and no compensation from Turkey," he added.

Among them was the Imam Shafie Institute, a Muslim training centre in Patikul, a fishing village on the southern Philippine island of Sulu.

In 1994, a Jordanian religious teacher told Jordanian police that he had been sent to the Imam Shafie Institute as an instructor. There, he received \$50,000 from Mr. Khalifa to finance bombings and assassinations in Jordan. He later recanted his statement.

Nevertheless, police and military intelligence sources here suspect the institute is deeply involved in extremist activity. The government, however, yields little power in the Patikul area.

Most of Sulu island is effectively under the control of the Abu Sayyaf group and the Moro National Liberation Front, the largest Muslim rebel organisation which has entered peace talks with the government.

But the front's urban, secular minded leader, Nur Misuari, has lived in Saudi Arabia for more than a decade and has apparently lost control of much of his rank-and-file.

The front has sought unsuccessfully for nearly 25 years to win self-rule for the Muslim community, and Mr. Alunan and others believe that failure has driven younger Islamic militants into the ranks of the Abu Sayyaf extremists.

"We know they have an assassination list," Mr. Alunan said. "And one of the names at the top is Nur Misuari. He is more afraid of his own people than of the government."

NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE forms new parliament

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Sunday appointed a new parliament two months after its two-year term had expired, the official agency WAM reported. It was not immediately clear if Abu Dhabi's Al Haj Ben Abdullah Al Muhaibri would remain as speaker of the 40-strong Federal National Council (FNC) which has several new members, according to a decree issued by President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan. The FNC, whose term had expired in February, is made up mainly of businessmen and leading figures, drawn proportionately from the seven emirates in the 24-year-old federation. Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the biggest and wealthiest emirates, are represented by eight members each while Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah have six each and the remaining members are drawn equally from the Umm Al Quwain, Ajman and Fujairah. The UAE is run by the rulers of the seven emirates, the Supreme Federal Council, which held its annual meeting on Sunday to discuss domestic affairs and other issues, WAM said.

Controversial film sweeps eight awards

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian cinema industry has awarded eight prizes to a controversial film that narrowly escaped being banned for allegedly depicting Joseph, whom Muslims revere as a prophet. In a star-studded ceremony on Saturday, a panel of judges awarded "Al Mohaber" (The Emigrant) Egypt's most prestigious awards for best film, cinematography, soundtrack, editing, set design and costumes as well as a prize for the male lead, Khaled Al Nabawi, and the director, Yousef Shahin. The film has been taunted with shout words and profanities. In one scene an actor remarked to another as they carried the cross into the abbey, "if you drop it, I'll cut your balls off". During the crucifixion, Christ was taunted with shouts of "Jew-boy". Anglican Bishop of London David Hope described the three-hour play written by Justin Butcher as "very earthy". The Roman Catholic Cardinal Basil Hume left after 30 minutes, saying he would have preferred something more meditative. One member of the 6,000-strong audience said Saturday "it was very frightening. It has given me a pain in my stomach." Some people walked out in anger and others were reported to have left in tears. Butcher, a practising Anglican, told reporters: "You have to convey a degree of violence and humiliation to make this story real."

Vienna attack not the work of PKK

VIENNA (AFP) — A firebomb attack on a Turkish Airlines office "was not the work of radical Kurdish groups, according to initial inquiries," police here said Sunday. At first police thought it could have been carried out by supporters of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), after a spate of similar incidents in Germany where the group is banned. However, they found a red flag bearing a star identified as that of a Turkish far-left group, the DHKC, which police believe is close to the radical Turkish organisation Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left) trying to establish communism in Turkey. Similar flags were found at the scene of three attacks on Turkish groups in Germany at the end of March. The Turkish Airlines incident occurred overnight Friday when a firebomb was thrown through a window, starting a fire which was quickly put out by firefighters. There were no injuries but security was stepped up around Turkish interests in Vienna.

Vanunu to eat leaven bread during Passover

ASHKELON (AFP) — Jailed spy and nuclear expert Mordechai Vanunu, who has converted to Christianity, has been allowed to eat leaven bread during the Jewish Passover celebrations, a prison spokesman said Sunday. Mr. Vanunu had requested not to be given the unleavened bread that Jews have been eating since Friday for the eight-day Passover marking their Biblical escape from Egypt. Bakeries in Israel close during the period, so "we have frozen round loaves for him," the spokesman told reporters. Mr. Vanunu is serving an 18-year sentence for having passed information and photos to London's Sunday Times in October 1986 of Israel's top-secret Dimona nuclear reactor, in the southern desert, where he had been working.

Japanese give Arafat hope of fresh aid

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A Japanese delegation touring the Middle East urged Yasser Arafat on Sunday to improve the Gaza Strip's economy and hold out hope of fresh aid for the self-rule territory. "I hope the Palestinians will work hard on the improvement of their economy and also to promote peace in the Middle East," said Katzuni Suzuki, a senior Japanese government aid official. "We would like to continue giving as much assistance as possible." Mr. Arafat said he hoped the Palestinians could soon acquire Japanese technology. "Japan is one of the most important donors helping our people. We are looking to get Japanese technology in our industrial zones and we are sure our Japanese friends will help us," he said. The 22-member delegation was sent to the Middle East to assess whether Japan should send United Nations peacekeeping troops to the Golan Heights. The group, which is due to return to Japan on Wednesday, has already travelled to Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Israel. On Friday Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said his country would support any Japanese contribution to the peace process.

Student wounds teacher, kills himself

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian university student killed himself and seriously wounded his teacher after setting off a grenade in a dispute over his class marks, the official Iranian news agency (IRNA) said Sunday. Majid Yussef-Poor, a student at the Islamic University of Mashhad in northeast Iran, had threatened the teacher before the grenade attack on Saturday night because he feared he would not go into a higher class without better marks, IRNA said.

COLUMN

Church offers religion to go with drive-thru service

SPRINGFIELD, Oregon (AFP) — Car-crazed Americans can now add a church's Easter tale to the latest drive-thru services. The New Life Centre Church here offered a dramatisation of the Passion of Christ in five scenes over the weekend. Viewers were able to watch the 12-minute production without even leaving their cars. People could drive to the church and view different scenes acted out around the grounds. The production opened with townspersons and Roman soldiers witnessing the miracles of Christ. Motorists around the side of the church, they encountered a scene depicting the Last Supper. At the far end of the parking lot the Crucifixion takes place, and the final part shows the empty tomb of Christ. "The early church used drama," Pastor Todd Wagoner said. "We've just taken it one step further."

Passion play profanities shock Abbey audience

LONDON (R) — An Easter play in which Jesus Christ was referred to as "pigish" and "a sorry looking bastard" left some of its Westminster Abbey audience shocked and tearful. The traditional Good Friday play in London's leading Protestant Church about the last hours and crucifixion of Jesus Christ was littered with swear words and profanities. In one scene an actor remarked to another as they carried the cross into the abbey, "if you drop it, I'll cut your balls off". During the crucifixion, Christ was taunted with shouts of "Jew-boy". Anglican Bishop of London David Hope described the three-hour play written by Justin Butcher as "very earthy". The Roman Catholic Cardinal Basil Hume left after 30 minutes, saying he would have preferred something more meditative.

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Aquino welcomes return of pregnant daughter

MANILA (AFP) — Former Philippine President Corazon Aquino said Sunday that she would welcome the return to the family of her youngest daughter and her soon-to-be-born baby, the Philippine Star reported. Mrs. Aquino made the comments in her first television interview to be aired Monday on the subject of her daughter, Kris, 24, whose pregnancy by a married man has stirred up controversy in predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines. "You and your baby, you will always be welcome," the paper quoted Mrs. Aquino, who led the popular revolt that toppled the 20-year-old dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, as saying. "But definitely I will not welcome you know who," she said, referring to Philip Salvador, more than 20 years Kris' senior, who separated from his wife, with whom he had three children. In the interview, the deeply religious Aquino said the pregnancy of Kris, a movie actress who is currently living with Salvador, had caused her "such pain."

Naked royals removed from exhibition

CANBERRA (AFP) — Exhibition organisers Sunday removed a life-sized sculpture of Britain's